# Juvenile Detention What's Going On in Virginia?

Utilization of pre-dispositional juvenile detention in Virginia

Fiscal Year 2000



## Virginia Detention Utilization Study

Commonwealth of Virginia
Department of Juvenile Justice
Carl R. Peed, Director
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### Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

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## **Table of Contents**

Introduction	
A Word From the Director	vii
Executive Summary	viii
Section I: Where, When, Who, Why, and How Long?	
Juvenile Population	2
Juvenile Intakes	3
Detention Home Admissions	8
Where do they come from? - localities, court districts	8
When do they get here? - admissions by month	10
Who are they? - demographics	11
Why are they here? - offenses	14
How long are they staying? - length of stay	15
Main Findings	18
Section II: The Decision to Detain - A Focused Study	
Background	20
Characteristics of Typical cases	21
Factors Influencing the Decision to Detain	23
Implications	24
Main Findings	25
Section III: What Do You Have to Say?	
Key Decision-Maker Interviews	28
Main Findings	32
Section IV: Promising Practices	
Promising Practices - Virginia	34
Promising Practices - Nationally	35
Appendices	
A. Code of Virginia §16.1-246, 247, 248.1, 260, 278.5, 284.1, 292(e)2	38
B. Localities in Each Court Service Units	
C. Map of DJJ Regions	
D. Abbreviations	
E. Data Collection Form	
F. Interview Questions	44
G. Offenses Headings Included in Each Offense Type (From Table 8)	
H. Study Responses for Participating JCECs	
I. Data Table - LOS by Offense Severity, per CSU	
References	50

## **Tables and Figures**

#### **Tables**

1.	Intake Disposition Codes	3
2.	Complaints at Intake	4
3.	Disposition of Intake Complaints	6-7
4.	Detention Home Admissions, Capacity, and ADP	8
5.	Admissions per CSU	9
6.	Detention Home Admissions by CSU - Age, Sex, and Race	12
7.	Virginia and National Detention Rates	13
8.	Statewide Admissions by Offense	14
9.	LOS by Detention Home	15
10.	LOS by CSU	16
11.	Offense Severity by LOS	17
12.	Characteristics of Detained and Released Juveniles	21
13.	Characteristics of Juveniles by Offense Severity	22
Figur	res	
1.	Virginia's At-Risk Population	2
2.	Detention Home Capacity	2
3.	Domestic Relations Complaints	3
4.	Admissions Map	8
5.	Admissions by Region	9
6.	Statewide Detention Admissions by Month	10
7.	Admissions by Age	11
8.	Admissions by Sex	11
9.	Admissions by Race	11
10.	1997 Detention Rates	13
11.	Days in Detention, FY 1999 and 2000	15
12.	Map of Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalitions	20
13.	Responses From the JCECs	20
14.	Percent of Juveniles Detained with Pro-Detention Scores	23
15.	Percent of Juveniles Detained with Pro-Release Scores	23
16.	Grouping of Responses	31

#### A Word From the Director...

Juvenile detention homes serve a vital function in the Commonwealth of Virginia. When necessary, they provide safe and secure housing for young people who stand accused of serious crimes. They protect the public from new offenses that could occur before the juveniles go before the court, and they protect the accused juveniles as well, by providing a secure setting unconnected to an adult jail. Juvenile detention homes, and the men and women who work in them, are an important part of Virginia's public safety efforts.

Any important activity, particularly one that temporarily deprives individuals of their liberties, must be examined closely. It is incumbent upon us to ensure that this power of the state is used properly, effectively, and efficiently. This report on pre-dispositional juvenile detention home utilization - the first such report to provide a comprehensive review of the Department of Juvenile Justice's detention practices and databases - provides important information about juveniles held in Virginia's detention homes. This report represents the work of many people throughout the agency. From our court service unit staff who helped collect necessary information, to our Information Services section's compiling and cleaning of databases, to our Community Programs staff offering their expertise in reviewing and explaining policy, and finally to the Research and Evaluation section, which put it all together. This study was funded by a Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant, awarded by the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

Thanks to the efforts of our Governor and the General Assembly, Virginia has made substantial progress in reducing juvenile crime. The state-funded expansion of juvenile justice programs in the communities has helped to reduce the number of juveniles who are committed to the state's juvenile correctional centers. However, the detention home population continues to rise. Several questions arise from these observations. Who are we placing in our juvenile detention facilities? For what offenses are they being detained? How long do juveniles stay in these facilities?

As you will see in this report, we take a threefold approach to answer these questions. In *Section I* we analyze the agency's databases to better understand the detention system and to create a profile of the detained juveniles. In *Section III* we report the results of a small, focused study of the detention decision within 32 localities. In *Section III* we present comments from the field, gathered in interviews with court service unit and detention home staff, judges, prosecutors, and other key decision-makers. We conclude in *Section IV*, sifting through all of this information to present to you what we feel are the most important findings, and also to highlight some innovative practices. A list of the relevant *Code of Virginia* statutes is provided in Appendix A, and a list of common acronyms and abbreviations used within the juvenile justice system and this report can be found in Appendix D. On the last page you will find a list of useful references, which provided the national data cited in this report.

This report focuses on the use of *pre*-dispositional detention, juveniles detained prior to a judge rendering a disposition. Post-dispositional detention is an important resource in the communities, but because it represents a very small portion of detention usage, it is not examined here.

I believe that this report on detention utilization will serve as a resource for key decision-makers in the juvenile justice system, and also serve to educate policy-makers and the public about Virginia's juvenile detention homes. Thank you for your interest.

Carl R. Peed

Director



#### **Executive Summary**

The Department of Juvenile Justice seeks to shed light on juvenile detention utilization. To that end, we have undertaken a three-fold approach to examining detention practices:

- An analysis of fiscal year 2000 data from DJJ databases.
- ➤ A focused study of 32 localities.
- ➤ Interviews of key decision-makers in the detention process.

#### Section I - Where, When, Who, Why, and How Long?

Researchers analyzed data from a number of sources to clarify detention utilization in fiscal year 2000. A variety of interesting trends were revealed, but the most important findings were these:

#### Virginia detains juveniles at a higher rate than the national average.

In 1997, the national detention rate was 96 juveniles per 100,000, while the rate for Virginia was 169 juveniles per 100,000. By 1999, the Virginia detention rate had risen to 176 per 100,000. 1999 national data are not available from the 1997 data source.

#### In FY 2000, technical violations represented 40% of detention admissions.

Technical violations include probation and parole violations, contempt of court, and failures to appear.

#### Detention home capacity is expected to increase 59% between FY 2000 and 2003.

The at-risk population (juveniles aged 10-17) is projected to grow by about 5% for this period.

#### In FY 2000, detention utilization averaged 122%.

Individual detention home utilization ranged between 62% and 271%.

*Nine court service units (CSUs) were responsible for over 50% of FY 2000 detention admissions.* All nine are in the Northern and Eastern Regions.

#### In FY 2000, about 75% of detention cases were released within 21 days.

About 7% stayed beyond 51 days. Forty-six percent of detention cases lasting beyond 51 days were for felony charges. Twenty-seven percent were for violations of probation or parole.

#### Section II - The Decision to Detain - A Focused Study

Intake officers' decisions to detain or release juveniles prior to hearings before a judge were examined in this thirty-day study. Information was collected on detained and released juveniles to determine the factors that might influence the detention decision. Results apply only to the cases in this study. The main findings were these:

#### Juveniles were more likely to be detained if they met any of these conditions:

- > Currently on *formal supervision*,
- > Displayed a *negative attitude*,
- **Caregivers were considered incapable** of meeting the juvenile's needs,
- Considered to be a risk of either fleeing or failing to appear, or,
- > Current or pending felony charges.

Technical violators have a high likelihood of being detained, regardless of whether they have any new criminal offenses.

#### Section III - What Do You Have To Say?

Key decision-makers in the detention process - court service unit and detention home staff, judges, prosecutors, and public defenders - were interviewed. They reported what they felt was working and not working in Virginia's juvenile detention system. The main findings were these:

## Initial detention placement decisions are heavily influenced by Code of Virginia criteria, especially safety of the community, with other factors considered as appropriate:

- ➤ Juvenile's history of mental disorder or substance abuse, or current offense features (e.g., attitude and compliance during arrest), and
- Locality-specific factors, such as serious crowding in detention and availability of alternative placements.

#### Decisions to release from detention were substantially the same as placement, with the addition of:

- > Juveniles' behavior in detention and the need to restore competence, and
- Cases in the custody of the Department of Social Services may remain in detention longer, or there may be a scarcity of alternative placement opportunities.

#### Section IV - Promising Practices

Promising detention practices identified throughout the course of the study are listed here.

#### Virginia Practices

Although not observed in every CSU, these practices seemed to be successful where they were implemented.

- Intake supervisors have been granted authority by the judge to make step-down placements.
- ➤ Probation and parole supervisors review the use of community-based options before detaining probation and parole violators.
- > CSU and detention home staff, social workers, and other key decision-makers move appropriate juveniles out of detention and into step-down programs as part of a weekly detention review meeting.

#### National Practices

These practices are recommended by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

- ➤ Various groups within the juvenile justice system (judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, police, probation officers, and others) work together to address problems.
- ➤ The use of effective detention alternatives ensures that juveniles who do not require secure care are supervised more appropriately.
- A security classification system that separates violent from nonviolent juveniles helps protect detained juveniles and detention staff from injury.

The Appendix contains useful information for your reference as you review this document. In particular, Appendix A lists the *Code of Virginia* statutes applicable to juvenile detention, and Appendix D lists common acronyms you may find in this report.

#### Wight James City King and Queen King George King William Lancaster Lee Loudoun Louisa Lunenburg Madison Mathews Mecklenburg Middlese Men Company Nelson New Kent Northman Page 1997, Band Page 1997, Nelson New Kent Northman Page 1997, Nelson Northumberland Nottoway Orange Page Patrick Pittsylvania Powhatan Prince Edand How Long? ward Prince George Prince William Pulaski Rappahannock Richmond Roanoke Rockbridge Rockingham Russell Scott Shenandoah Smyth Southampton Spotsylvania Stafford Surry Sussex Tazewell Warren Washington

Amherst Appomattox Arlington Augusta Bath Bedford Bland Botetourt Brunswick

Chesterfield Clarke Craig Culpeper Cumberland Dickenson Dinwiddie Essex Fairfax Fauquier Floyd Fluvanna Franklin Frederick Giles Gloucester Goochland Grayson Greene Greensville Halifax Hanover Henrico Henry Highland Isle of

Charlottesville Chesapeake Clifton Forge

Colonial Heights Covington Danville Em-

Harrisonburg Hopewell Lexington Lynchburg Manassas Manassas Park Martinsville Newport News Norfolk Norton Petersburg Poquoson Portsmouth Radford

Richmond Roanoke Salem South Boston

Amherst Appomattox Arlington Augusta

Caroline Carroll Charles City Charlotte Chesterfield Clarke Craig Culpeper Cumberland Dickenson Dinwiddie Essex Fairfax Fauquier Floyd Fluvanna Franklin

Wight James City King and Queen King
George King William Lancaster Lee
Loudoun Louisa Lunenburg Madison
Mathews Mecklenburg Middlesex Montgomery Nelson New Kent Northampton
Northumberland Nottoway Orange Page

Patrick Pittsylvania Powhatan Prince Ed-

Rockbridge Rockingham Russell Scott Shenandoah Smyth Southampton

Tazewell Warren Washington Westmoreland Wise Wythe York Alexan-

Charlottesville Chesapeake Clifton Forge Colonial Heights Covington Danville Emporia Fairfax Falls Church Franklin

Lynchburg Hopeweit Lexington Lynchburg Manassas Manassas Park Martinsville Newport News Norfolk Norton Petersburg Poquoson Portsmouth Radford Richmond Roanoke Salem South Boston Staunton Suffolk Virginia Beach

Buchanan Buckingham Campbell Caroline Carroll Charles City Charlotte

Arlington Augusta Bath

Fredericksburg Harrisonburg

Westmoreland Wise Wythe York Alexan Statewide Pre-Dispositional Buena Vis Statewide Pre-Dispositional **Detention Home Profile** Fiscal Year 2000



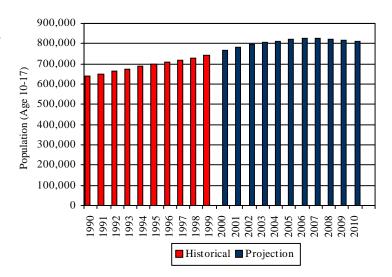
#### **Juvenile Population**

Obviously, detained juveniles are only a portion of all the cases that move through the juvenile justice system each year. And all of those cases represent only a small number of the juveniles in the overall population. Before we look too closely at juveniles in the detention homes, we will take a look at Virginia's at-risk population, the planned expansion of detention facilities across the state, and the types of cases that come into court service unit (CSU) intake - a juvenile's

first contact with the justice system. From there we will go on to the actual detained population, to ask *who*'s being detained, *where* do they come from, *why* are they here, and *how long* are they staying.

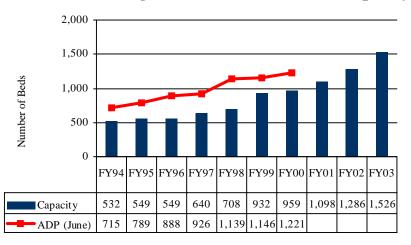
- We begin by examining the population at risk of being placed in a detention home, juveniles aged 10 to 17. All but a small portion of detained juveniles are in this age group. In 1999, more than 700,000 persons in Virginia were between ages 10-17, about 11% of the total Virginia population. After a period of 2% annual growth during the 1990s, this age group is projected to slowly level off between 2000 and 2006 (1% annual growth) before beginning a gradual decline (1% annually) through 2010.
- Minorities in this age group are projected to show the greatest increases between 2000 and 2010. The number of White juveniles is projected to decrease 1%. In that same period, there is a projected *increase* of 11% in the number of Black juveniles, 40% in the number of Hispanic juveniles, and 39% among juveniles of other races.
- ➤ In Figure 2, you can see that the planned expansion of Virginia's juvenile detention homes is far greater than the projected growth in at-risk population would suggest. However, this follows a long period in the 1980s and 1990s in which capacity increased very slowly, if at all.
- Although this report focuses on pre-dispositional detention, the average daily population (ADP) and capacity in Figure 2 includes both pre- and post-dispositional detention. Historically, the ADP has been about 95% pre-dispositional.
- ➤ The ADP of the state's detention system has historically exceeded capacity. To combat this problem, detention homes statewide are expanding. Between fiscal years 1994 and 2003, the capacity is projected to *triple*.

Figure 1: Virginia's At-Risk Population



Data collected from the U.S. Census Bureau website, March 2001.

Figure 2: Detention Home Capacity



Approved Expansion as of 6/14/2000

FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03
Pr. William 21 to 40	Roanoke 21 to 48	Highlands 20 to 30	Blue Ridge*40	Virginia Beach* 90
Norfolk 43 to 80		Rappahannock 21 to 80	Newport News 40 to 110	Crater 22 to 70
Culpeper* 50		James River Regional* 60	W.W.Moore 30 to 60	Pr. William 41 to 72
		Piedmont* 20	Shenandoah Valley 32 to 50	1
		Roanoke 48 to 81	Chesterfield 33 to 90	

denotes a new facility

#### Intake - A Juvenile's First Contact with DJJ

Because a large percentage of detention admissions occur at the intake level, it is important to have an understanding of the juvenile intake process and the automated reporting systems utilized by intake staff. Intake is one of many functions that occurs at the 35 CSUs across the state. The intake process is governed by *Code of Virginia (COV)* § 16.1-260. It is the screening process by which a designated probation officer — called an intake officer — receives complaints that are alleged to fall within the jurisdiction of the court. There are two broad categories of intake-juvenile offenses and domestic relations. This report will focus on juvenile matters only.

For every intake, probable cause must be established or the complaint will be considered unfounded. Additionally, in cases that meet the statutory criteria (usually class 1 misdemeanors and felonies – §16.1-248.1), intake officers must use their discretion to determine if the action warrants a detention placement (§16.1-246). The intake officer, while attempting to balance the needs of the complainant, the juvenile, and the community, can choose from many intake dispositions. Those options range from diversion (§16.1-260.B), which is the resolving of the complaint without going to court, to issuing a petition but allowing the juvenile to remain in the community, to filing a petition and requiring that the juvenile be placed in a shelter care or detention facility until a preliminary court hearing can be held. It should be noted, however, that the diversion option is not available in instances when the juvenile has committed a violent felony or has previously had a complaint diverted (§16.1-260.B). See Appendix A for a brief review of the *COV* statutes that pertain to juvenile detention.

The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Juvenile Tracking System (JTS) records and reports on all complaints. This database allows juveniles to be tracked throughout the juvenile justice system. Unfortunately, the detention home module has only recently been added to the JTS. Detention data prior to FY 2001 (including the data in this report) is taken from a separate database, the Community Population System (COPS). This is of interest primarily because it prevents us from tracking a juvenile from intake through detention.

#### Domestic Relations

Domestic relations cases make up 57% of all cases brought to intake (identified as J&DR on Table 2). Although they obviously represent a signifi-

cant amount of the court service units' time, they are not presented here, because they do not represent crimes committed by juveniles. With regard to intake complaints, our focus in this report is on intakes that could lead to a juvenile being detained.

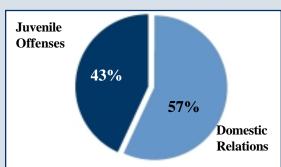


Figure 3: Domestic Relations Complaints FY 2000

Tables 2 and 3 break out intake complaints by CSU, grouping CSUs into DJJ's three regions. Region I encompasses the western part of the state, Region II includes Richmond and localities north of the city, and Region III includes the eastern part of the state. Appendix C shows a map of Virginia, divided into the three regions.

#### **Intake Disposition Codes**

When a complaint is processed through intake, it is given a code to indicate intake disposition. The codes are grouped together in Table 3. For your reference, the codes and the dispositions they signify are listed here in Table 1.

#### **Table 1: Intake Disposition Codes**

Code	Disposition	Code	Disposition
01	Resolved	09	Returned to out-of-state
02	Petition filed	10	Consent agreement signed
03	Petition/detention order filed	12	Shelter care only
04	Unofficial/family counseling	13	Detention order only
05	Referred to another agency	14	Pending
06	Returned to probation	11	Petition/shelter care filed
07	Participation required, diversion	15	Consent signed/petition filed
08	Complaint unfounded	16	Court summons

Table 2: Complaints at Intake, FY 2000

	•		,						
CSU	Felony	Misdemeanor	Special Penalty	Dom. Rel	Local Ordinance	Traffic	Attempts	Other	TOTAL
010	460	1,282	209	3,544	0	9	0	41	5,545
021	346	767	64	3,539	0	3	5	13	4,737
022	464	1,532	322	4,054	17	8	3	163	6,563
023	190	890	178	1,438	0	205	4	151	3,056
23A	454	1,061	128	2,899	0	0	2	510	5,054
024	561	1,972	679	4,810	10	10	9	5	8,056
025	670	2,247	221	3,932	15	60	0	20	7,165
027	457	2,233	244	3,216	5	21	12	19	6,207
028	175	886	449	2,354	0	1	0	11	3,876
029	205	818	145	3,643	0	9	1	14	4,835
030	223	928	276	2,619	0	11	1	21	4,079
Region I	4,205	14,616	2,915	36,048	47	337	37	968	59,173
013	994	2,051	707	5,501	0	16	12	83	9,364
014	817	2,474	278	3,661	0	7	18	270	7,525
015	1,260	4,610	701	9,568	0	38	10	117	16,304
016	619	1,243	885	5,299	0	9	4	96	8,155
017	277	862	432	706	5	9	13	36	2,340
17F	21	82	17	18	2	0	0	0	140
018	184	480	158	1,431	5	173	1	0	2,432
20L	376	788	302	692	44	9	0	10	2,221
20W	120	298	67	427	0	9	0	2	923
026	608	1,620	263	3,432	1	5	6	2	5,937
031	916	1,984	819	4,281	8	6	33	41	8,088
Region II	6,192	16,492	4,629	35,016	65	281	97	657	63,429
001	803	2,030	249	2,665	15	7	28	15	5,812
002	818	3,091	583	5,948	419	18	11	173	11,061
02A	207	308	127	1,371	0	0	1	0	2,014
003	437	999	78	3,368	0	17	0	67	4,966
004	897	2,314	454	7,220	20	4	0	688	11,597
005	427	1,027	80	1,559	0	9	0	5	3,107
006	474	1,376	119	1,636	0	6	7	6	3,624
007	693	2,000	319	2,948	0	9	0	30	5,999
008	531	1,561	104	3,425	0	25	0	164	5,810
009	439	1,811	116	2,788	0	36	3	41	5,234
011	463	1,204	169	3,517	1	14	8	22	5,398
012	1,180	3,997	501	7,197	46	10	1	376	13,308
Region III	7,369	21,718	2,899	43,642	501	155	59	1,587	77,930
TOTAL	17,766	52,826	10,443	114,706	613	773	193	3,212	200,532

<sup>~</sup>All information was collected from the reports menu of the Juvenile Tracking System (JTS).

<sup>~</sup>The 19th District CSU (Fairfax) is not included in this table. That locality was not using the JTS during FY 2000. Fairfax reports 16,115 total intake complaints for FY 2000.

#### **Complaints at Intake**

Table 2 presents data for all statewide intake complaints for FY 2000. Although juvenile crime has been characterized in the press as becoming increasingly similar to serious and violent adult crimes, data suggest that this is not necessarily the situation in Virginia.

- More than one-half of all FY 2000 intakes (57%) were due to domestic relations cases. These intakes were primarily custody and support cases, but also included some status offenses and Child in Need of Services (CHINS) and Child in Need of Supervision (CHINSup) issues.
- Only 9% of all CSU intake complaints were for felony offenses, crimes that could result in one or more years of incarceration when committed by adults.
- ➤ Misdemeanor charges accounted for 26% of all intake complaints in FY 2000.
- ➤ Most of the remaining intake complaints were "special penalty" cases (5%). The majority of these special penalty complaints involved probation/parole violations.

There was little overall variability between DJJ's three administrative regions on types of intake charges. Region I had the smallest within-region percentage of criminal complaints (7% felony and 25% misdemeanor charges), and Region II had the highest percentage of special penalty intakes (7%). DJJ's regions are demonstrated in a map in Appendix C.

However, there were some significant differences at the CSU level.

- ➤ The 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> CSUs (Region I) were the only CSUs to have fewer than 5% felony intake complaints. All CSUs in Region I had less than 10% felony cases.
- ➤ CSU 20L (Region II) had a higher percentage of felony intakes (17%) than any other CSU within Virginia. Most CSUs within Region II had more than 10% felony intake complaints.
- ➤ Region II had both the lowest and highest percentage of misdemeanor complaints. Only 15% of complaints for the 16<sup>th</sup> CSU were due to misdemeanor charges, while 59% of the intakes for CSU 17F were for misdemeanor offenses.
- The 17<sup>th</sup> CSU in Region II had the highest percentage of special penalty cases among its FY 2000 intakes (19%). Interestingly, no CSU within Region III had more than 7% of special penalty intakes.
- ➤ Two CSUs had over 75% of their intakes in the domestic relations category- the 21<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> CSUs. By far the lowest percentage of these intakes was processed in CSU 17F (13%).
- ➤ The 2<sup>nd</sup> CSU had the highest percentage of local ordinance violation intakes (4%). This may be due to ordinances that are particular to Virginia Beach.

#### **Disposition of Intake Complaints**

Table 3 includes information on complaints by case disposition at intake. Region III had 40% of the total disposed complaints statewide. There were few regional or CSU differences on types of dispositions, but there were statewide trends noted.

- The majority of complaints disposed of at intake were "petition only" (67%), most of which were misdemeanor complaints.
- Petitions were filed and detention orders issued for only 19% of the total disposed complaints. This percentage is similar to the 1996 national percentage of juveniles detained by juvenile courts (18%). However, some juveniles are detained without an intake officer's detention order. This would include juveniles detained directly by judges, and would also include any juveniles detained by intake officers without the filing of a detention order. Some procedural errors regarding the filing of detention orders were identified in the course of this study, and have been corrected for future detention practice.
- Twelve percent of all disposed intake complaints were resolved or diverted.

Table 3: Disposition of Intake Complaints, FY 2000

				_			_			41.4		
Disposition		ved/Div		Pet	ition O	nly		etentio.			elter Ca	re
		04, 05,			(02)			(03, 13)			(11, 12)	
Off. Severity	F	M	S	F	M	S	F	M	S	F	M	S
CSU												
010	4	31	1	395	1,181	187	61	68	21	0	0	0
021	49	286	3	197	416	40	99	61	18	1	2	3
022	7	467	0	180	784	106	277	280	216	0	0	0
023	0	138	4	154	708	115	35	44	58	0	0	1
23A	38	220	1	283	697	41	132	135	85	1	1	1
024	1	93	2	279	1,598	398	279	257	224	0	9	55
025	26	268	2	400	1,663	96	241	205	121	0	0	0
027	28	314	3	358	1,698	176	70	76	65	0	0	0
028	2	48	1	125	717	311	48	115	136	0	0	0
029	2	48	3	157	722	106	46	48	36	0	0	0
030	8	82	4	173	747	169	40	82	94	0	0	9
Region I	165	1,995	24	2,701	10,931	1,745	1,328	1,371	1,074	2	12	69
013	3	387	7	355	1,086	145	636	575	555	0	0	0
014	42	682	0	596	1,649	210	175	102	68	0	0	0
015	39	557	15	835	3,275	346	364	430	338	0	1	0
016	46	242	3	415	817	565	155	134	317	0	0	0
017	3	29	0	249	538	360	27	13	67	0	1	4
17F	0	0	0	14	74	14	7	8	3	0	0	0
018	23	68	0	139	302	118	3	7	40	0	0	0
20L	3	39	1	253	507	81	119	117	210	1	1	9
20W	0	1	0	91	279	55	29	17	12	0	0	0
026	11	163	1	472	1,323	155	124	130	107	0	0	0
031	66	500	0	487	1,144	577	363	328	181	0	11	61
Region II	236	2,668	27	3,906	10,994	2,626	2,002	1,861	1,898	1	14	74
001	5	47	1	346	1,559	102	449	408	146	0	0	0
002	41	309	3	704	2,689	492	72	72	88	0	3	0
02A	2	4	1	203	304	126	2	0	0	0	0	0
003	0	25	0	196	728	22	241	221	56	0	0	0
004	7	507	33	740	1,677	233	146	102	176	3	8	12
005	0	71	0	287	878	48	140	78	32	0	0	0
006	0	13	0	309	1,262	55	165	101	64	0	0	0
007	3	145	1	341	1,262	202	348	545	106	0	21	9
008	11	355	1	199	816	18	316	235	74	1	54	9
009	10	200	0	288	1,286	57	134	144	58	0	3	0
011	3	161	10	333	921	92	120	94	52	3	3	4
012	177	2,061	2	652	1,579	153	350	348	346	0	0	0
Region III	259	3,898	52	4,598	14,961	1,600	2,483	2,348	1,198	7	92	34
TOTAL	660	8,561	103	11,205	36,886	5,971	5,813	5,580	4,170	10	118	177

F=Felony M=Misdemeanor S=Special Penalty

All information was collected from the reports menu of the Juvenile Tracking System (JTS). The 19th CSU is not included in this table. That locality was not part of the JTS during FY 2000.

Intakes in the J&DR category are predominately domestic relations (e.g., child custody) with a much smaller number of juvenile status violations. J&DR intakes are not included in Table 3.

Table 3: Disposition of Intake Complaints, FY 2000, cont'd

Disposition	P	ending		Un	found	ed		Other			TOTAL	
		<b>(14)</b>			(08)		(06, 0	9, 10,1				
Off. Severity	F	M	S	F	M	S	F	M	S	$\boldsymbol{F}$	M	S
CSU												
010	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	460	1,282	209
021	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	346	767	64
022	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	464	1,532	322
023	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	190	890	178
23A	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	3	0	454	1,061	128
024	2	13	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	561	1,972	679
025	1	8	0	0	9	0	0	94	2	668	2,247	221
027	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	143	7	457	2,233	251
028	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	3	0	175	886	449
029	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	205	818	145
030	2	10	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	223	928	276
Region I	5	31	0	1	23	1	1	253	9	4,203	14,616	2,922
013	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	994	2,051	707
014	0	8	0	4	30	0	0	3	0	817	2,474	278
015	1	10	0	11	31	2	0	21	0	1,250	4,325	701
016	1	35	0	2	15	0	0	0	0	619	1,243	885
017	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	281	1	279	862	432
17F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	82	17
018	11	43	0	8	6	0	0	54	0	184	480	158
20L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	124	1	376	<i>788</i>	302
20W	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	120	298	67
026	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	608	1,620	263
031	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	916	1,984	819
Region II	13	99	0	26	83	2	0	488	2	6,184	16,207	4,629
001	0	5	0	3	10	0	0	1	0	803	2,030	249
002	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	15	0	818	3,091	583
02A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	207	308	127
003	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	437	999	<i>7</i> 8
004	0	2	1	1	9	0	0	9	0	897	2,314	455
005	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	427	1,027	80
006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	474	1,376	119
007	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	25	1	693	2,000	319
008	0	0	0	4	101	2	0	0	0	531	1,561	104
009	6	62	0	0	4	0	1	112	1	439	1,811	116
011	1	5	2	3	3	0	0	17	9	463	1,204	169
012	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	1	0	1,180	3,997	501
Region III	7	74	3	13	140	2	2	205	11	7,369	21,718	2,900
TOTAL	25	204	3	40	246	5	3	946	22	17,756	52,541	10,451

F=Felony M=Misdemeanor S=Special Penalty

All information was collected from the reports menu of the Juvenile Tracking System (JTS). The 19th CSU is not included in this table. That locality was not part of the JTS during FY 2000.

Intakes in the J&DR category are predominately domestic relations (e.g., child custody) with a much smaller number of juvenile status violations. J&DR intakes are not included in Table 3.

#### **Pre-Dispositional Detention Home Admissions**

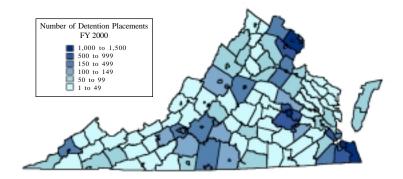
This report focuses on *pre*-dispositional detention (juveniles detained prior to a judge rendering a disposition). Historically, pre-dispositional detention represents about 95% of detention utilization. Juveniles may be detained by either an intake officer or by a judge.

There were 21 secure detention facilities located throughout Virginia in FY 2000 - six in Region I, nine in Region II, and six in Region III. Nine are commission operated, 11 are locally operated, and one is state operated. Commission operated detention homes serve localities that are members of its commission and may contract with other localities. Locally operated detention homes are operated by one locality but may also serve others. Localities that do not operate a home and do not belong to a commission typically have agreements with other detention homes.

#### Where Do They Come From?

The figures and tables that follow show how the number of detention admissions varies across the state.

Figure 4: FY 2000 Admissions



- ➤ A quick glance at the map shows that the areas detaining the largest number of juveniles are Northern Virginia (Washington D.C. area), the Greater Richmond area, and Tidewater (particularly Virginia Beach and Norfolk).
- Admissions at Tidewater Detention Home were 61% higher than the next most numerous location, Richmond.
- ➤ Seven detention homes received over 50% of the total pre-dispositional admissions in FY 2000. In descending order of admissions, they are:

1) Tidewater 4) Newport News

2) Richmond 5) Norfolk

3) Fairfax 6) Chesterfield

7) Shenandoah Valley

➤ Statewide detention utilization is 122%. Detention home utilization ranges from a low of 62% (Loudoun) to a high of 271% (Henrico). The recent opening of the James River Regional detention home will alleviate overcrowding at Henrico.

Table 4: FY 2000 Detention Home Admissions, Capacity, and ADP

<b>Detention Home</b>	Pre-D Only	All Det	ainees
	Admissions	Capacity	ADP
Region I			
Highlands	494	20	23.9
Lynchburg	882	48	41.0
New River	429	20	28.9
Roanoke*	485	21	28.5
Shenandoah	1,012	32	42.4
WW Moore	736	30	37.6
Region II			
Culpeper	680	50	39.1
Fairfax	1,533	121	106.0
Henrico	864	20	54.1
Loudoun	430	24	14.8
Northern Virginia	814	70	61.0
Northwestern	476	32	23.6
Prince William	917	40	49.5
Rappahannock	966	21	41.3
Richmond	1,644	60	103.2
Region III			
Chesterfield	1,066	33	60.5
Crater	758	22	46.4
Merrimac	731	48	47.8
Newport News	1,476	40	96.2
Norfolk	1,249	80	82.1
Tidewater	2,639	100	142.1
TOTAL	20,281	932	1,170.0

In Table 4, admissions are reported for pre-dispositional (pre-d) cases only. Capacity and average daily population (ADP) are given for the entire population to clarify detention home conditions. This report focuses on pre-d cases, which historically represent about 95% of all admissions.

\*Roanoke expanded to 48 beds in June 2000. The capacity was 21 throughout the other eleven months of the fiscal year.

Analyses based upon the COPS database require the following cautions: (1) Since dispositional status is not consistently recorded, separation of pre- and post-dispositional admissions was accomplished by other means. (2) All analyses were conducted on data submitted prior to October 2, 2000, when a new Juvenile Tracking System module, the Detention Home System, was activated. (3) No code exists for locating juvenile cases transferred to Circuit Court. (4) COPS does not provide a unique identifier for juveniles, making it difficult to perform data edits on multiple admissions for a given juvenile. (5) Editing and other forms of data quality control ensure that these are the best obtainable data as of February 28, 2001.

#### Table 5, a-c: FY 2000 Admissions per CSU

a: Region I

CSU	Location	Admissions
010	Charlotte Court House	345
021	Martinsville	121
022	Rocky Mount	640
023	Salem/Roanoke County	286
23A	Roanoke City	444
024	Lynchburg	736
025	Staunton	523
027	Pulaski	272
028	Abingdon	265
029	Pearisburg	150
030	Gate City	298
		4,080

b: Region II

D. Kegiui	i 11	
CSU	Location	Admissions
013	Richmond	1,660
014	Henrico	947
015	Fredericksburg	1,166
016	Charlottesville	697
017	Arlington	481
17F	Falls Church	15
018	Alexandria	271
019	Fairfax	1,541
20L	Loudoun	309
20W	Warrenton	66
026	Winchester	464
031	Manassas	994
	-	8,611

c: Region III

CSU	Location	Admissions
001	Chesapeake	682
002	Virginia Beach	1,265
02A	Accomac	142
003	Portsmouth	443
004	Norfolk	1,110
005	Suffolk	263
006	Hopewell	425
007	Newport News	994
008	Hampton	463
009	Williamsburg	312
011	Petersburg	394
012	Chesterfield	1,058
		7,551

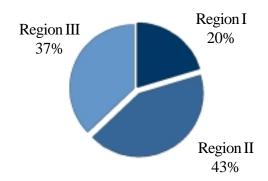
- Admissions to detention contributed by the regions were: Region I (20%); Region II (43%); and Region III (37%). Although Region III had the greatest number of felony and misdemeanor intakes (see Table 2), Region II has the greatest number of detention admissions. This is largely because intakes for the 19th CSU (Fairfax) are not included in Table 1. The 19th CSU did not use the JTS during FY 2000, but its detention admissions were recorded in COPS. (See the footnote on page 8 for more about the COPS database.)
- ➤ Nine CSUs were responsible for over 50% of FY 2000 detention admissions . Five are in Region II, four are in Region III. In descending order, they are:

CSU 13 (Richmond) CSU 19 (Fairfax) CSU 2 (Virginia Beach) CSU 15 (Fredericksburg) CSU 4 (Norfolk) CSU 12 (Chesterfield) CSU 31 (Manassas)

CSU 7 (Newport News) CSU 14 (Henrico)

- The 24th CSU detained the largest percentage of juveniles in Region I, 18%.
- Admissions from the 13th, 15th, and 19th CSUs accounted for more than half of all admissions in Region II.
- ➤ Admissions from the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> CSUs accounted for almost half of all admissions in Region III.

Figure 5: FY 2000 Admissions by Region



#### When Do They Get Here?

It is commonly believed that the juvenile detention homes are busiest during the summer and part of winter, due to school breaks during these seasons. The conventional wisdom is that when they are out of school with nothing to do, juveniles are more likely to get into trouble.

To test the truth behind this belief, we have taken the number of juveniles detained each month for fiscal years 1997 to 2000. Figure 6 shows the percentage of the total admissions represented by each month of the fiscal year (e.g., 7.9% of admissions occurred in July, 7.6% in August, etc.). For this analysis, both pre-dispositional and post-dispositional detention admissions are counted.

Figure 6: Statewide Detention Admissions by Month Pre- and Post-Dispositional Admissions , FY 1997 to 2000

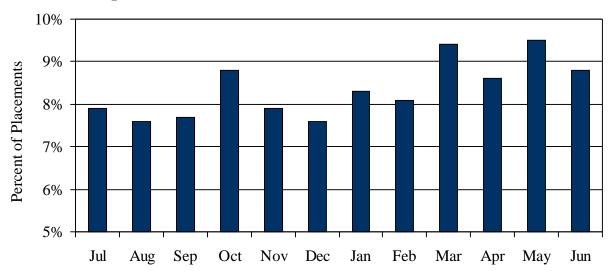


Figure 6 shows us that for the most part, the months traditionally corresponding with school vacations are actually slightly lower than fall and spring. Admissions begin dropping off from May to June, when summer vacation generally begins. They continue dropping in July and August, picking up slightly in September, when students first return to school. Admissions do not increase significantly until October, when students have been back in school a month or more. They drop again in November and December, months which include a long Veteran's day weekend and Thanksgiving, as well as a longer, traditional winter vacation, around Christmas. Admissions are up again in January and February, when students have returned to school, increasing sharply in March. After a dip in April, they rise again in May before beginning the summer decline.

These data are certainly not enough to suggest that juveniles are "better behaved" when they are out of school. However, they do refute the common belief that detention homes are busiest during these vacation months. There are a few possible explanations for why detention homes are busier during the school year.

- ➤ During breaks from school, at-risk juveniles are not associating with delinquent classmates. Compulsory school attendance brings together juveniles from across a school district. Some juveniles will be exposed to negative peer influences, which may lead them to become involved in offenses that they might not otherwise have committed.
- Some offenses may be school-related. Misdemeanor assaults may be more likely to occur when these large groups of juveniles are brought together. Possession of drugs on school property may be more likely to lead to detention than possession in another public area, or at home. Also, school attendance may be a requirement of a juvenile offender's probation, so truancy could lead to a juvenile being detained on a probation violation.
- ➤ During the school year, a juvenile's behavior is more closely monitored by school officials. Offenses that occur year-round may only be noticed when the juveniles are under this official scrutiny.

#### Who Are They?

Figures 7-9 and Table 6 demonstrate that the typical detainee is a Black male between the ages of 15 and 17. Table 7 compares Virginia's detention rate to the national average.

Figure 7: Detention Home Admissions By Age, FY 2000

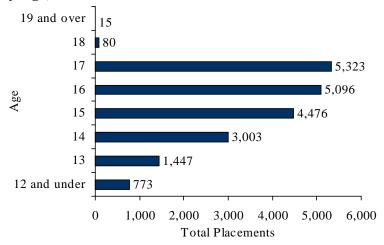


Figure 8: Detention Home Admissions By Sex, FY 1992 - FY 2000

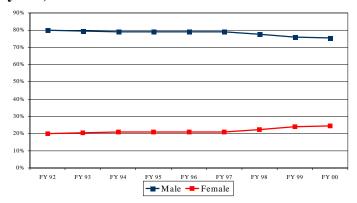
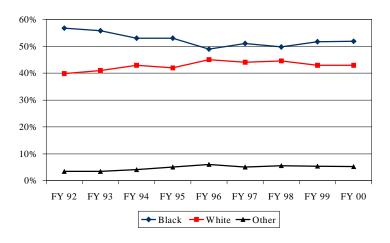


Figure 9: Detention Home Admissions By Race, FY 1992 - FY 2000



- ➤ In FY 2000, approximately 75% of statewide detention admissions were between 15 and 17 years of age.
- Consistent with national data, the majority of juveniles detained in Virginia are between the ages of 15 and 17. Virginia detains a larger percentage of 17 year-olds than the nation, 26% compared to 18%. This could be due to some states' juvenile court jurisdictions ending at age 15 or 16.
- Seventeen year-olds were the most common age group admitted from Regions I and II, while 16 year-olds were more common in Region III.
- From FY 1992 to FY 2000, the percentage of male detainees decreased slightly from 80% to 75%, with a corresponding increase for females.
- Females represented about 25% of admissions from all three regions.
- Despite the fact that there was a greater percent increase in the number of cases involving detention among females than among males, males still far outnumbered females among detained cases.
- These data are consistent with national trends.
- ➤ In 1997, nationally, 44% of detention admissions were Black, 53% White, and 3% of another race.
- ➤ Between FY 1992 and FY 2000, in Virginia, the proportion of detainees who were Black decreased from 57% to 52%. In FY 2000:
  - o In Region I, 38% of admissions were Black, and 60% were White. The opposite was true in Region III, with 61% Black and 36% White.
  - o Region II had the largest number of admissions from juveniles of other races, almost 10% of the region's total. Blacks represented 50% and Whites about 40%.

**Table 6: Detention Home Admissions by Court Service Unit, FY 2000** Age, Sex, and Race

CSU				Age	:				Se	X		Race		TOTAL*
	12 & under	13	14	15	16	17	18	19 & over	Female	Male	White	Black	Other	
010	19	16	48	56	101	104	0	0	61	284	129	215	1	345
021	1	6	20	29	31	34	0	0	17	104	41	77	3	121
022	23	39	123	136	155	161	2	1	144	496	277	360	3	640
023	11	9	35	66	60	102	1	0	79	207	258	25	3	286
23A	25	39	84	109	90	96	0	1	88	356	162	282	0	444
024	59	67	98	153	150	198	1	2	169	567	335	392	9	736
025	29	39	81	140	136	97	1	0	152	371	396	114	13	523
027	7	18	54	63	64	66	0	0	78	194	213	55	4	272
028	6	18	33	50	59	98	0	0	85	180	225	37	3	265
029	0	10	19	20	40	60	0	0	34	116	143	5	2	150
030	16	23	44	58	70	86	0	0	88	210	289	8	1	298
Region I	196	284	639	880	956	1,102	5	4	995	3,085	2,468	1,570	42	4,080
013	67	132	273	343	401	405	28	2	393	1,267	45	1,610	5	1,660
014	41	69	136	222	225	250	1	0	227	720	394	525	28	947
015	38	78	165	263	307	305	9	1	274	892	732	384	50	1,166
016	28	40	77	174	191	184	3	0	166	531	353	338	6	697
017	17	31	78	97	105	151	1	0	121	360	58	224	199	481
17F	0	0	3	3	2	7	0	0	1	14	5	0	10	15
018	11	26	52	50	63	69	0	0	88	183	24	201	46	271
019	37	92	194	286	451	467	3	0	435	1,106	785	424	332	1,541
20L	10	19	29	53	90	108	0	0	61	248	188	76	45	309
20W	0	2	7	11	20	26	0	0	12	54	52	13	1	66
026	16	28	74	123	93	126	0	0	109	355	369	79	16	464
031	20	71	139	252	246	258	2	0	235	759	485	421	88	994
Region II	285	588	1,227	1,877	2,194	2,356	47	3	2,122	6,489	3,490	4,295	826	8,611
001	34	58	88	146	171	180	5	0	140	542	290	382	10	682
002	40	87	175	277	343					894			52	1,265
02A	10	14	24	27	32	32	0			112	33			142
003	24	31	71	90	111	110	1	4	99	344	108	333	2	443
004	45	86	220	247	264	237	4			819	180			1,110
005	4	19	34	59	65	76	5	0	57	206	72	191	0	263
006	24	37	63	91	100		2			315	150	265		425
007	37	71	121	235	271	258	0			746	239	734		994
008	17	36	84	113	116		0			343	129	328		463
009	8	24	38	66	85	87	3	0	71	241	170			312
011	6	30	55	113	97	89	3			330	68	326		394
012	42	81	164	250	277	234	4		250	808	625			1,058
Region III	291	574	1,137	1,714	1,932		28	8		5,700			<b> </b>	7,551
TOTAL*	773	1,447	3,003		· ·	_	80	15	4,971	15,310			1,061	20,281

<sup>\*</sup>Totals include admissions in which the detaining CSU was reported by the detention home to be unknown, and therefore may not equal the sum of the three regions. Age categories do not sum to total due to date of birth errors in 68 cases.

**Table 7: Virginia and National Detention Rates** 

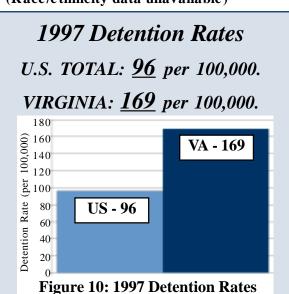
Detained Juveniles per 100,000 Aged 10-17 in the Population

Population	Total	M ale	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
U.S. Total - 1997	96.0	154.9	33.8	53.7	272.5	127.8	71.4
Virginia - 1997	168.5	259.0	73.6	82.7	440.5	132.6	74.4
Virginia - 1999*	176.3	272.0	75.9	104.7	396.6	194.4	68.6

1997 rates are of juveniles detained on October 27, 1997. 1999 rates are of juveniles detained on October 25, 1999.

#### Detention Rate by Virginia CSU, October 25, 1999\* (Race/ethnicity data unavailable)

CSU	Total	Male	Female
001	136.3	236.5	31.8
002	141.3	203.5	77.0
02A	197.7	231.2	162.3
003	282.4	435.2	125.3
004	357.3	558.1	149.4
005	138.5	217.4	56.5
006	244.9	354.6	127.1
007	412.4	611.7	206.9
008	196.5	306.7	84.8
009	81.4	122.7	39.2
010	107.2	196.1	12.3
011	204.9	346.4	53.1
012	203.6	312.8	91.7
013	748.7	1,210.0	269.4
014	276.1	454.7	90.9
015	132.4	201.4	59.2
016	94.4	131.8	54.5
017	326.6	505.8	132.4
17F	0.0	0.0	0.0
018	437.8	646.2	222.5
019	124.2	182.8	63.0
20L	58.0	101.9	11.9
20W	57.0	109.3	0.0
021	84.6	164.8	0.0
022	282.5	467.5	86.6
023	98.5	122.8	73.2
23A	392.5	683.5	93.6
024	198.1	322.3	68.8
025	102.7	172.8	28.8
026	73.9	109.1	36.4
027	114.8	164.5	60.2
028	92.1	126.3	56.5
029	42.7	40.8	44.6
030	146.7	184.7	106.5
031	159.3	239.8	73.3



Rates allow regions of different sizes to be compared on an equal level. Using rates allows us to compare national, state, and local level detention practices. Rates are calculated by dividing the number of juveniles detained by the number in the population, and multiplying the result by 100,000. For example, the number of juvenile males detained is divided by the number of juvenile males in the population, and then multiplied by 100,000.

- ➤ Virginia detains juveniles at a higher rate than the nation. In 1997, Virginia detained 72.5 juveniles *more* per 100,000 than the total for the nation. Detention rates can vary for many reasons, and neither a higher nor a lower rate is necessarily desirable. For example, a lower detention rate could indicate insufficient access to detention space.
- Racial and gender disparity in detention rates does not necessarily indicate gender or race discrimination. An examination into the root causes of racial and gender disparity is beyond the scope of this report.

<sup>\*1999</sup> Virginia rates calculated using COPS data and U.S. census data. 1997 Virginia and U.S. rates calculated using counts of detained juveniles reported from the OJJDP website and U.S. census data. Census data retrieved from U.S. Census Bureau website, March 2001. Rates are of the population between the ages of 10 and the limit of the juvenile courts jurisdiction. In Virginia, this includes ages 10 to 17. Nationally, the upper limit varies. This is accounted for in the rates above.

#### Why Are They Here?

Table 8: Statewide Admissions by Offense FY 2000

Offense	Felony	Misdemeanor		Other	TOTAL
Type		Class 1	Class 2-4		
Technical	109	305	0	7,748	8,162
Property	2,658	1,461	10	274	4,403
Person	1,604	2,639	0	0	4,243
Drugs	717	84	71	2	874
Other	53	565	50	70	738
Weapons	164	431	3	7	605
JDR	0	0	0	282	282
Arson	194	54	2	30	280
Traffic	10	106	33	47	196
CHINS	0	0	0	168	168
Alcohol	0	162	1	1	164
CHINSup	0	0	0	147	147
Family	6	0	6	7	19
TOTAL	5,515	5,807	176	8,783	20,281

Unclassified misdemeanors (M9s) have been split among the Class 1 and Class 2-4 misdemeanors according to penalty structure. Unclassified misdemeanors for which an adult could be placed in jail for 0-12 months were identified as Class 1, all others as Class 2-4. The "Other" category includes Special Penalty offenses (e.g., technical violations), status offenses, and charges that are designated "type not clear from record." See Appendix G for a list of the various offense headings grouped into each Offense Type.

Only the most serious offense for which a juvenile was detained was reported on the Community Population System (COPS) database. If a juvenile's case involved multiple charges, the monthly detention home report (JC34) included only the most serious offense. Therefore, these data cannot be used to estimate trends for less serious offenses, which would be obscured if more serious charges existed. For example, if a juvenile was detained while awaiting disposition for robbery and larceny, only the robbery should have been reported. In such a case, the information for the larceny is lost.

Technical violations by far represent the largest number of detention admissions for FY 2000. Technical violations include probation/parole violations, contempt of court, and failure to appear (FTA) in court. These offenses represent over 40% of all FY 2000 admissions, almost as many as property and person offenses combined. The COPS database does not indicate the original charge for these technical violations, so we cannot identify the offense type or seriousness level. It is also impossible to determine factors such as the length of time a juvenile may have been on probation, or the number of violations that occurred prior to the juvenile being detained.

These data are consistent with the study findings detailed in Section II. In that study, 81% of juveniles on formal supervision who came before intake (on either a new charge or on a technical violation) were detained. Seventy-eight percent of juveniles with only a technical violation were detained. Although those results are only applicable to the cases examined, they are supported by these statewide data.

- Felony offenses accounted for 27% of all statewide detention admissions in FY 2000. Forty-eight percent of felony admissions were due to property violations, 29% were for person offenses, and 13% were for drug offenses. Only about 2% of felony admissions were for technical violations, which would include failure to appear before the court on a felony charge.
- ➤ Thirty percent of admissions were due to misdemeanor offenses, 99% of which were Class 1 offenses. Most of the Class 1 misdemeanor admissions were due to person offenses (45%), and 25% were for property crimes. Only 5% of Class 1 misdemeanor admissions were due to technical violations, which would include failure to appear before the court for a Class 1 misdemeanor.
- The remaining statewide detention admissions (43%) were classified as having a seriousness level of "Other." These were primarily technical violations (88%). Because of the reporting method used in the COPS database, data on the original charge for these technical violations were not available for examination.
- The seriousness of offense is part of the criteria for detaining juveniles. Juveniles who do not meet the offense criteria could still be detained if they meet other criteria, such as recent failures to appear.

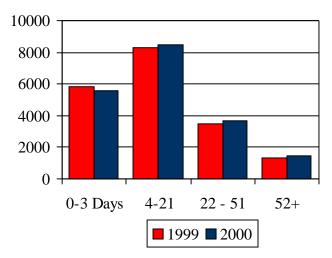
#### How Long Are They Staying?

Length of stay (LOS) in detention homes has become a major concern in recent years. A juvenile's release from detention and LOS are typically at the discretion of the judge, in accordance with §16.1-248.1 of the *Code of Virginia*. Bed space utilization issues often contribute to overcrowding, thus influencing LOS trends. A longer average LOS could lead to overcrowding, which in turn could limit access to detention.

The intervals selected for days juveniles spent in detention (0-3, 4-21, 22-51, and 52 or more) are consistent with statutes found in the Code of Virginia. Pursuant to §16.1-250, detained juveniles shall appear before a judge on the next day on which court sits, not to exceed 72 hours. Pursuant to §16.1-277.1, a juvenile must be released from secure detention if there is no adjudicatory or transfer hearing within 21 days from the initial date of detention.

Additionally, after the completion of the adjudicatory hearing, the juvenile must be released from detention if the disposition hearing is not completed within 30 days of the adjudicatory or transfer hearing. The court may extend the time limits for a reasonable period of time based upon good cause shown. There are a variety of reasons that a juvenile may be in detention for longer than 21 days, including the completion of a social history investigation and appeal hearings. Cases on appeal are included among the pre-dispositional cases in this study. Appeals can cause exceptionally long detention stays, while the juvenile awaits the higher court's decision.

Figure 11: Days in Detention FY 1999 and 2000 Admissions



**Table 9: LOS by Detention Home** 

	Le	Length of Stay					
<b>Detention Home</b>	0-3 days	4-21	22-51	52+	LOS		
Chesterfield	393	338	197	77	18		
Crater	228	262	148	89	21		
Culpeper	154	355	120	30	16		
Fairfax	336	633	276	112	22		
Henrico	252	286	187	90	21		
Highlands	133	232	83	29	17		
Loudoun	199	156	40	16	12		
Lynchburg	310	375	117	47	16		
Merrimac	176	354	112	57	19		
New River Valley	143	160	55	30	19		
Newport News	373	534	374	145	22		
Norfolk	269	540	297	78	20		
Northern Virginia	164	346	135	60	21		
Northwestern	147	218	50	27	16		
Prince William	286	373	125	43	15		
Rappahannock	272	490	135	43	14		
Richmond	545	485	365	168	20		
Roanoke	110	214	105	37	20		
Shenandoah Valley	221	589	144	28	14		
Tidewater	612	1,230	524	178	18		
WW Moore	229	291	81	46	16		

Note: To analyze LOS, both an admission and a release date are required. For our analysis, we examined the 19,113 FY 2000 admissions for which a release date was recorded (94% of FY 2000 admissions).

- ➤ The average LOS statewide was 18 days in FY 1999 and 19 days in 2000. Loudoun had the shortest average LOS in FY 2000 (12 days). Both the Fairfax and the Newport News detention homes had the longest average LOS in FY 2000 (22 days).
- ➤ In both 1999 and 2000, almost 75% of cases statewide were released within 21 days of placement. Loudoun released 86% of cases within 21 days in FY 2000.
- Statewide, about 7% of detained juveniles stayed more than 51 days in both FY 1999 and 2000. In FY 2000, four detention homes (Crater, Henrico, Newport News, and Richmond) had more than 10% of their cases remain in detention more than 51 days. Shenandoah had the lowest percentage (3%).

#### Table 10, a-c: LOS by CSU, FY 2000

#### a: Region I

8	L	ength of S	Stay (Day	s)	Average
CSU	0-3	4-21	22-51	52+	LOS
010	96	155	56	18	16
021	37	52	13	10	18
022	210	261	69	33	15
023	76	133	46	13	15
23A	109	194	93	32	20
024	237	315	109	44	18
025	166	269	54	15	13
027	79	99	42	24	23
028	82	121	38	18	17
029	49	77	11	5	11
030	64	140	64	15	18
TOTAL	1,205	1,816	595	227	17

#### b: Region II

b: Region II								
	L	ength of S	Stay (Day	s)	Average			
CSU	0-3	4-21	22-51	52+	LOS			
013	548	490	372	168	20			
014	256	355	195	90	20			
015	338	585	162	48	14			
016	154	384	116	25	15			
017	95	192	90	41	23			
17F	5	4	1	2	22			
018	55	117	43	17	19			
019	344	633	276	112	22			
20L	161	104	20	12	11			
20W	24	25	9	3	13			
026	126	233	50	24	17			
031	296	433	130	44	15			
TOTAL	2,402	3,555	1,464	586	18			

#### c: Region III

	L	Length of Stay (Days)						
CSU	0-3	4-21	22-51	52+	LOS			
001	123	364	122	46	20			
002	335	550	260	74	17			
02A	27	76	24	4	14			
003	107	194	94	28	19			
004	245	466	273	74	20			
005	46	131	51	30	22			
006	78	172	87	71	27			
007	214	382	249	114	24			
008	143	147	127	31	20			
009	65	129	54	43	25			
011	161	119	74	25	15			
012	384	342	195	77	18			
TOTAL	1,928	3,072	1,610	617	20			

- ➤ The Region I average LOS (17 days) was the shortest of the three statewide administrative regions.
  - The 29<sup>th</sup> CSU had the shortest average LOS (11 days); the 27<sup>th</sup> CSU had the longest average LOS (23 days).
  - Most of the Region I CSUs had a shorter average LOS than the statewide FY 2000 average of 19 days.
- ➤ The Region II average LOS (18 days) was shorter than the statewide average of 19 days.
  - o CSU 20L had the shortest average LOS (11 days); the 17<sup>th</sup> CSU had the longest average LOS (23 days).
  - Five CSUs in Region II had a longer average LOS than the statewide average LOS.
- ➤ The Region III average LOS (20 days) was longest of the three statewide administrative regions.
  - o CSU 2A had the shortest average LOS (14 days); the 6<sup>th</sup> CSU had the longest average LOS (27 days) for both the region and statewide.
  - Seven CSUs in Region III had a longer average LOS than the statewide average LOS.

**Table 11: Offense Severity and LOS FY 2000** 

Offense Severity	LOS (Days)		TOTAL		
	(released juveniles)	I	II	Ш	
Felony	0-3	304	569	557	1,430
·	4-21	383	722	838	1,943
	22-51	176	404	540	1,120
	52+	91	252	312	655
Class 1	0-3	450	722	715	1,887
Misdemeanor	4-21	579	864	993	2,436
	22-51	136	305	477	918
	52+	45	102	121	268
Class 2-4	0-3	4	26	17	47
Misdemeanor	4-21	15	39	23	77
	22-51	1	22	9	32
	52+	0	6	3	9
Probation/Parole	0-3	231	564	319	1,114
Violation	4-21	458	1,229	714	2,401
	22-51	174	549	446	1,169
	52+	49	182	157	388
Contempt of Court	0-3	162	333	187	682
•	4-21	335	576	323	1,234
	22-51	98	141	100	339
	52+	36	35	15	86
CHINSup	0-3	3	53	18	74
	4-21	3	13	34	50
	22-51	1	4	6	11
	52+	0	0	3	3
CHINS	0-3	0	28	7	35
	4-21	1	13	20	34
	22-51	0	1	1	2
	52+	0	1	1	2
Other	0-3	51	107	108	266
	4-21	42	99	127	268
	22-51	9	38	31	78
	52+	6	8	5	19
TOTAL	0-3	1,205	2,402	1,928	5,535
	4-21	1,816		3,072	8,443
	22-51	595	1,464	1,610	3,669
	52+	227	586	617	1,430

#### Juveniles Charged with...

#### ... Felonies

> Twenty-eight percent were released within 72 hours. Most, however, were held in detention between four and 21 days (38%). These juveniles were more likely than others to stay more than 21 days (34%). Lengths of stay beyond 51 days were also more common for these juveniles (13%). Juveniles charged with felonies represent 46% of all cases detained more than 51 days.

Note: In Tables 10 and 11, admissions in which the detaining CSU is unknown (0.2%) and admissions in which the release date was not reported (5.8%) are excluded. Appendix I provides LOS and Offense information by individual court service unit. Data Source: COPS

#### ...Class 1 Misdemeanors

➤ Thirty-four percent were released from secure detention within 72 hours. Most remained in detention between four and 21 days (44%).

#### ...Technical Violations

- > Technical violations have been broken into two groups in Table 11: juveniles charged with violations of probation or parole, and juveniles charged with contempt of court (which includes failures to appear). Those charged with probation or parole violations were less likely to be released within three days (22% vs. 29%), and were more likely to stay over 21 days (31% vs. 18%).
- > Of all offense severity levels, juveniles charged with probation or parole violations were the least likely to be released within 72 hours (22%). They were also the second most likely to stay beyond 21 days (31%). Eight percent stayed beyond 51 days. These juveniles represent 27% of all cases detained more than 51 days.

#### ...Status Offenses

- Juveniles charged with status offenses (CHINS and CHINSup) were more likely to be released within 72 hours than juveniles charged with other offenses. Of the 73 released juveniles who had been charged with CHINS, all but four (95%) were released within 21 days. Of the 138 juveniles charged with CHINSup, 90% were released within 21 days.
- An effort was made to verify CHINS, CHINSup, and Class 2-4 misdemeanor charges with the detaining CSU.

#### Main Findings

#### Virginia detains juveniles at a higher rate than the national average.

In 1997, the national detention rate was 96 juveniles per 100,000, while the rate for Virginia was 169 juveniles per 100,000. In 1999, the Virginia detention rate rose to 176. 1999 national data are not available from the 1997 data source. Detention rates vary across the state.

#### In FY 2000, technical violations represented 40% of detention admissions.

Technical violations include probation and parole violations, contempt of court, and failures to appear.

#### Detention home capacity is expected to increase 59% between FY 2000 and 2003.

The at-risk population (juveniles aged 10-17) is projected to grow by about 5% for this period.

#### In FY 2000, detention utilization averaged 122%.

Individual detention home utilization ranged between 62% and 271%.

#### Nine CSUs were responsible for over 50% of FY 2000 detention admissions.

All nine are in the Northern and Eastern Regions.

#### In FY 2000, about 75% of detention cases were released within 21 days.

About 7% stayed beyond 51 days. Forty-six percent of detention cases lasting beyond 51 days were for felony charges. Twenty-seven percent were for violations of probation or parole.

## The Decision to Detain A Focused Study

A study of detention decisions at intake in 32 Virginia localities



#### **Background**

Detention homes statewide were eligible for this grant-funded study, but all respondents were from the Richmond, Tidewater, and Northern Virginia areas. Local planning groups (Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalitions, or JCECs) associated with seven detention homes and representing 32 localities, participated in the study. They are identified here by the detention home with which they are associated: Richmond, Rappahannock, Norfolk, Newport News, Fairfax, Merrimac, and Loudoun. A list of the participating localities can be found in Appendix H.

Participating JCECs Detention Home Utilization Study 2000 Loudoun Merrimac Fairfax New port New s Norfolk Rappahannock Richmond Other Localities Ø

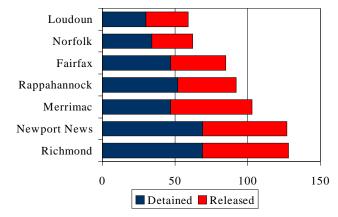
Figure 12: Map of Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalitions

In November and December 2000, 656 intakes were coded as part of this study (348 detained, 308 released). The number of intakes varied by JCEC. Information solicited included demographics, offense history, and aggravating or mitigating factors that influenced the detention placement decision. (Forms were completed for detention decisions made at the intake level only. Judicial detention decisions were not included. A copy of the form is included in Appendix E of this report.) These data cannot be generalized to describe all intakes for a year, but they can provide some insight into the detention decision-making process. It should be understood, however, that all conclusions drawn from this data apply only to the cases in this study.

JCECs are identified geographically by the detention home into which the localities feed. However, the localities may, on Figure 13: Responses from the JCECs occasion, place their detainees elsewhere.

Fairfax County could not provide an adequate number of coding forms relative to the number of actual detention orders issued (less than 50%). As a result, it would be inappropriate to draw any inferences from the data collected. For this reason, Fairfax JCEC is not included in these summary pages.

Appendix H also includes each JCEC's individual responses on the coding form.



#### **Characteristics of Typical Cases**

#### Table 12: Characteristics of Detained and Released Juveniles\*

#### **Detained Cases (301)**

Among the juveniles at intake who were detained:

- > 71% were between the ages of 15 and 17
- 76% were male
- ► 63% were non-white
- ➤ 47% had at least one felony charge as a current or pending offense
- > 54% had at least one misdemeanor as a current or pending offense
- ➤ 38% had at least one prior felony charge
- ► 68% had at least one prior misdemeanor charge
- ➤ 49% were on formal supervision at the time of intake
- ➤ 21% displayed a negative attitude during intake
- ➤ 38% had caregivers who were considered to be capable of meeting their needs
- 28% were considered likely to flee or fail to appear
- 17% were at intake for a technical violation only

\*Fairfax not included.

#### Released Cases (270)

Among the juveniles at intake who were released:

- 63% were between the ages of 15 and 17
- 76% were male
- 60% were non-white
- 28% had at least one felony charge as a current or pending offense
- 77% had at least one misdemeanor as a current or pending offense
- 17% had at least one prior felony charge
- 41% had at least one prior misdemeanor charge
- 13% were on formal supervision at the time of intake
- 6% displayed a negative attitude during intake
- 64% had caregivers who were considered to be capable of meeting their needs
- 6% were considered likely to flee or fail to appear
- 6% were at intake for a technical violation only

## **Noteworthy trends:**

Non-White males, ages 15-17, represented the majority of both detained and released juveniles. When comparing detained and released juveniles on other factors, the following differences were identified:

- Detained juveniles were more likely to be before intake on a felony charge.
- Released juveniles were more likely to be before intake on a misdemeanor charge.
- Detained juveniles were more likely to have either a prior felony or a prior misdemeanor.
- Detained juveniles were more likely to be on formal supervision at the time of intake.
- $\triangleright$ Detained juveniles were more likely to display a negative attitude at intake.
- Released juveniles were more likely to have caregivers who were considered to be capable of meeting their  $\triangleright$ needs.
- Detained juveniles were more likely to be at risk of flight or of failing to appear at their adjudicatory hearings.  $\triangleright$
- Detained juveniles were more likely to have no offense other than a technical violation in their current charges.

## Table 13: Characteristics of Juveniles Charged With Felonies, Misdemeanors, and Technical Violations\*

## Felonies (215)

Among juveniles at intake with a felony as their most serious current or pending charge:

- > 72% were between the ages of 15 and 17
- > 86% were male
- ► 60% were non-white
- > 32% had at least one prior felony charge
- > 52% had at least one prior misdemeanor charge
- > 27% were on formal supervision at the time of intake
- ➤ 15% displayed a negative attitude during intake
- ➤ 40% had caregivers who were considered capable of meeting their needs
- ➤ 18% were considered likely to flee or fail to appear
- ► 65% were detained

## Misdemeanors (266)

Among juveniles at intake with a misdemeanor as their most serious current or pending charge:

- ► 62% were between the ages of 15 and 17
- > 70% were male
- ► 63% were non-white
- ➤ 20% had at least one prior felony charge
- ➤ 48% had at least one prior misdemeanor charge
- 22% were on formal supervision at the time of intake
- ➤ 14% displayed a negative attitude during intake
- > 59% had caregivers who were considered capable of meeting their needs
- ➤ 14% were considered likely to flee or fail to appear
- > 35% were detained

## **Technical Violations** (67)

Among juveniles at intake for a technical violation only:

- > 78% were between the ages of 15 and 17
- ► 69% were male
- ► 61% were non-white
- ➤ 49% had at least one prior felony charge
- ➤ 91% had at least one prior misdemeanor charge
- ➤ 91% were on formal supervision at the time of intake
- > 10% displayed a negative attitude during intake
- ➤ 49% had caregivers who were considered capable of meeting their needs
- ➤ 34% were considered likely to flee or fail to appear
- > 78% were detained

Note: Some juveniles charged with felonies and misdemeanors were also charged with violation of probation or parole. These juveniles were included in either the felon or misdemeanant categories only. The category identified as technical violators above includes only juveniles with **no** misdemeanor or felony charges at the time of intake.

#### \*Fairfax not included.

#### **Noteworthy trends:**

- > Juveniles charged with technical violations could be on either formal or informal supervision at the time of intake.
- All three groups were equally distributed in terms of race.
- Although all three groups were predominately males between the ages of 15 and 17, juveniles charged with misdemeanors were slightly younger juveniles, and juveniles charged with felonies were more likely to be male.
- > Only a small portion of each group had a negative attitude at intake.
- Juveniles charged with misdemeanors were the most likely to have caregivers considered capable of meeting their needs, while juveniles charged with felonies were the least likely.
- > Juveniles charged with technical violations were the most likely to be considered at risk of flight or failure to appear at their adjudicatory hearing.
- Juveniles charged with technical violations were the most likely to be detained while juveniles charged with misdemeanors were the least likely.

#### **Factors Influencing the Decision to Detain**

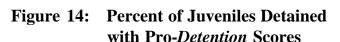
The detention screening form was designed to assess the influence of certain factors on detention placement decisions. These factors included demographic variables, *Code of Virginia* detention criteria for detention placement (§ 16.1-248.1), as well as other elements that were thought to have some impact on the detention decision process.

Analysis of the responses provided by the court service units identified five factors that were strongly influential in the detention decision-making process.<sup>1</sup> All other factors were shown to have little or no impact. It should be emphasized that *these results are only applicable to cases in this study* and cannot be generalized to all intakes, either statewide or in the localities participating in this study.

Five factors were determined to have a significant impact on the detention decision:

- > Supervision status: Juveniles who were on formal supervision were significantly more likely to be detained. Eighty-one percent of juveniles on formal supervision at the time of intake were detained. Forty-eight percent of juveniles on informal supervision and 28% of juveniles not under supervision were detained.
- Perceived attitude of juvenile: Eighty-three percent of juveniles who were perceived to display a negative attitude during intake (according to the intake officer) were detained. Forty-seven percent of juveniles who did not display a negative attitude were detained.
- ➤ Capability of caregiver: Seventy-four percent of juveniles whose caregivers were considered to be incapable of meeting their needs were detained. Thirty-six percent of juveniles whose caregivers were considered to be capable of meeting their needs were detained.
- ➤ *Risk of flight*: Eighty-seven percent of juveniles who had been given one or more detention orders or warrants for escape, runaway, or failure to appear were detained at intake. Forty-six percent of juveniles who were not considered a risk for flight or failure to appear were detained.
- Current and pending felonies: Sixty-five percent of juveniles with one or more current/pending felony charges were detained at intake. Forty-five percent of juveniles with no current/pending felony charges were detained.

Figures 14 and 15 demonstrate how these factors were distributed among the detained and released juveniles. Figure 14 shows the percent of juveniles detained and released when a factor's score increased the likelihood of being detained (e.g., displayed a negative attitude). Figure 15 shows the percent detained and released when a factor's score increased the likelihood of release (e.g., not considered a risk for flight or failure to appear).



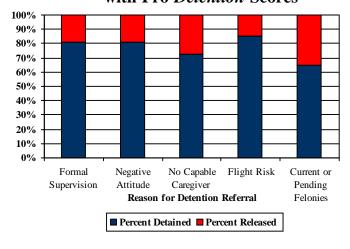
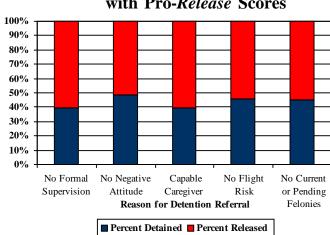


Figure 15: Percent of Juveniles Detained with Pro-Release Scores



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Logistical regression analysis was calculated to determine which factors contributed most significantly to the prediction of detained and released status. The five factors listed above correctly predicted 78% of juveniles detained at intake, and 69% of juveniles released at intake.

When these factors are combined, their impact is made clearer. Of the juveniles in this study who were released directly from intake, 39% were not on formal supervision, had capable caregivers, did not display a negative attitude, posed no flight risk, and had no current/pending felony charges. Only 6% of juveniles detained had those characteristics.

For this focused study, data were collected and analyzed for a wide variety of additional factors, which were found to have little or no influence on the detention decision for this sample of cases. Those factors included:

- Juvenile's age
- ➤ Juvenile's sex
- > Juvenile's minority status
- ➤ Gang involvement
- Legal guardian (who was responsible for the juvenile's care)
- ➤ Living situation (juvenile's residence)
- Current or pending misdemeanors
- Prior offenses
- Documented history of violence
- > Substance abuse history

- Weapon use during offense
- > Employment status
- Educational status
- ➤ Mental health status
- ➤ Recommendation of arresting officer
- > Individuals present at intake
- > Aggravating or mitigating factors in the case
- > Days since offense occurred
- Was the victim a member of the juvenile's household?
- > Reason for detention referral

#### **Implications**

It needs to be stressed that these findings are applicable only to the group of intakes examined. They cannot be generalized to all detention decisions, either statewide or specific to participating localities. That said, this study has revealed some important facts regarding the detention decision-making process. The factors identified here may or may not influence all detention decisions statewide, but they have clearly been identified as important to many intake officers in Virginia.

The most obvious finding is that juveniles who come to intake on charges of technical violations have a high likelihood of being detained, regardless of whether they have committed any new criminal offenses. Seventy-eight percent of juveniles in this study who were at intake for a technical violation only were detained, compared to 65% of juveniles at intake with a current or pending felony charge. These percentages are consistent with the finding that 81% of juveniles on formal supervision at the time of intake were detained. This data is also consistent with findings in Section I, where it was shown that 40% of juveniles detained statewide in FY 2000 had a technical violation as their most serious identified charge.

Independent of this study, but in recognition that technical violators make up a large percentage of the detention home population, the Department of Juvenile Justice is in the process of revising its parole guidelines to make greater use of graduated sanctions. These revisions will encourage court service units to identify intermediate sanctions that fall short of detention for juveniles who appear at intake for parole violations with no new criminal offenses. Considered in the light of this study, this change could lead to a significant reduction in detention admissions: 17% of detention admissions in this study were at intake for technical violations only. However, this group includes both probation and parole violators, whereas DJJ's policy changes affect parole violations only.

A second interesting, if not surprising, finding is that the perceived attitude of the juveniles can impact the detention decision. Regardless of the offense, if the juvenile is perceived to have displayed a negative attitude during the intake process, he or she was more likely to be detained.

The attitude of the juvenile is not identified in the COV (§16.1-248.1) as a criterion for admission to detention, but all of the juveniles in this study already met those criteria. This analysis does not suggest that a negative attitude can get a juvenile detained regardless of his or her offense. However, it does show that in the cases observed, juveniles who were similar to released juveniles on other factors were more likely to be detained if the intake officer perceived a negative attitude during intake. This can be of some concern because attitude is clearly a highly subjective factor.

A final interesting finding is what this analysis did *not* show. Neither race, sex, nor age were found to have an impact on the detention decision *for the cases in this study*. This might seem difficult to accept, given that in the previous section we saw that males are detained at a higher rate than females and Non-Whites are detained at a greater rate than Whites. For the cases in this study, Non-White males between the ages of 15 and 17 represented the majority of both detained and released cases. Because these groups were represented equally among both detained and non-detained cases, it cannot be seen as a factor in the decision to detain. Any selective bias occurred prior to the detention decision *for the cases in this study*.

As stated above, these findings cannot be generalized to detention decisions statewide or to all decisions in the participating localities. Two specific limitations prevent generalization. First, intake staff were asked to identify the comparison sample of released juveniles. Because the released cases were not a random sample, the selection process could have biased the comparison group. Second, intake officers were aware that they were being observed, and in some cases filled out the forms themselves. It is possible that the knowledge that their decisions would be analyzed could have influenced some officers to make different decisions than they would normally make. Due to these limitations, it should be understood that these results apply only to the cases examined in the study. However, the finding that technical violators have a high likelihood of being detained is consistent with findings in Section I.

#### Main Findings

Results apply only to the cases in this study.

Juveniles were more likely to be detained if they met any of these conditions:

- > Currently on *formal supervision*,
- > Displayed a negative attitude,
- > Caregivers were considered incapable of meeting the juvenile's needs,
- > Considered to be a risk of either fleeing or failing to appear, or,
- > Current or pending felony charges.

Technical violators have a high likelihood of being detained, regardless of whether they have any new criminal offenses.

# What Do You Have to Say About Juvenile Detention Practices?

Interviews With Key Decision Makers



## **Key Decision-Maker Interviews**

We interviewed key decision-makers in the detention process in each of the seven local planning groups that participated in this study. We spoke with seven juvenile and domestic relations (JDR) district court judges, seven prosecutors and public defenders who practice in JDR courts, 29 CSU staff (intake and probation officers, supervisors, and CSU directors), and seven detention home superintendents and assistant superintendents. They provided a practitioner's perspective on a variety of issues. A copy of the questionnaire appears in Appendix F. Their responses are grouped by subject, below.

#### Initial Detention Placement Decisions

The primary factors considered in detention placement are the safety of the community and adherence to *Code of Virginia (COV)* detention criteria. Detention criteria are specified in §16.1-248.1, and include:

- The juvenile is alleged to have committed an act that would be a felony or Class 1 misdemeanor if committed by an adult, and there is convincing evidence that:
  - o He represents a threat to either the community or himself, or
  - o He has threatened to abscond, or has willfully failed to appear before the court in the past twelve months.
- The juvenile has absconded from a facility where he has been lawfully placed by either a judge or intake officer.
- The juvenile is a fugitive from outside of Virginia.
- ➤ The juvenile has failed to appear in court on a summons in any case in which it is alleged that the juvenile has committed a delinquent act or that the child is in need of services (CHINS) or is in need of supervision (CHINSup). CHINS and CHINSup juveniles can only be detained until the next day of court.

A juvenile cannot be detained unless he meets the *COV* criteria. However, other factors might be considered when the intake officer is determining whether to detain a juvenile who meets the legal criteria.

- Factors related to the juvenile:
  - o Detention is more likely if the victim is a family member or lives in the same home;
  - o Compliance during the arrest and detention process could be a mitigating factor;
  - The scope of the juvenile's problems at home, in school, and in the community could be an aggravating or mitigating factor;
  - o The mental health or substance abuse history of the juvenile; and
  - o The court may need to maintain custody during assessments or a forensic investigation.
- Factors related to the jurisdiction:
  - Large jurisdictions and jurisdictions with overcrowded detention facilities, may try to conserve detention space for person-related offenses. As a result, these facilities may house more serious and potentially violent offenders than in other jurisdictions.
  - Some jurisdictions have a policy of "automatically" detaining juveniles charged with certain offenses (e.g., use of a weapon, possession of cocaine). This is less common in jurisdictions with high detention home populations.
  - The availability of alternative facilities to serve juvenile needs, such as state mental hospitals or group homes, may influence the detention decision because juveniles occasionally are housed in detention for a short period prior to transfer to a more appropriate facility.
  - o Juveniles not attending school might be placed in detention to obtain special education or other testing that was not performed in public schools. In some cases, juveniles might be placed in a detention home to take advantage of the school program. Detention staff expressed concerns that these juveniles are not necessarily appropriate for detention, from a public safety perspective.

#### Decisions to Release from Detention

In most jurisdictions, only the judge can order a release from secure detention. The criteria used to make release decisions do not vary considerably from those used to make placement decisions. However, they make an effort to release juveniles from secure detention within 21 days.

The juvenile's behavior while in detention and the availability of services can impact release decisions.

- > Some defense attorneys actively seek to have their clients' competency assessed. If the juvenile is found incompetent, the attorney seeks a continuance to have competency restored (in detention) before adjudication. Defense attorneys may seek continuances for other reasons as well.
- > Release may be hindered by the inability or unwillingness of families to accept a juvenile's return.
- > Juveniles in the custody of the Department of Social Services (DSS) may stay in detention longer because they lack appropriate placements. One respondent stated, "Once [DSS] kids are in detention they seem to stay."
- The scarcity of step-down programs (e.g., electronic monitoring) can delay a juvenile's release, while he or she awaits availability.
- > Juveniles may be kept in secure detention while waiting for needed services, such as substance abuse treatment or mental health counseling.

#### Pre-Dispositional Length of Stay in Detention

It was the consensus among all individuals interviewed that long LOS in secure detention is a problem for the detention staff as well as the juvenile.

- ➤ Problems for detention staff:
  - o Leads to overcrowding and stressed resources;
  - o Contributes to low morale, high burnout rates and staffing shortages (from overcrowding); and
  - o Staff become too comfortable around juveniles who have been detained a long time. This can compromise security.
- > Problems for juveniles:
  - o May take on a "criminal mindset," by becoming accustomed to the institutional lifestyle;
  - o They may lose respect for staff's authority; and
  - o Interruption of education and participation in community treatment programs.
- Factors contributing to longer stays include:
  - o Offense seriousness;
  - o Circuit court cases (both transfers and appeals of juvenile court decisions);
  - o Competency assessments and restoration (not conducted in every jurisdiction);
  - o An expectation that the juvenile will be committed to DJJ, and therefore should not be released from detention early in the process;
  - o If the prosecutor's office wants to "get tough" on violations of court orders or probation/parole, they will be unlikely to support the juvenile being released early in the process;
  - o Insufficient step-down programs;
  - o Awaiting boot camp placements;
  - o Awaiting DSS placements;
  - o Docketing complexities and requests for continuances; and
  - o A history of running away, failure to appear in court, or some other indicator of flight risk, could keep a juvenile from being released early in the process.

#### Communication Between Key Decision-Makers about Detention

Respondents felt that consistent communication between the key decision-makers is crucial to making good choices for detention placements and releases. Getting the most information possible about a juvenile helps the detention process from placement to release.

- Most beneficial to good communication are:
  - o Accessibility between key decision makers;
  - o Face-to-face meetings (email and voicemail sometimes actually decreased the efficiency and strength of communication); and
  - Regular, scheduled meetings to discuss detention issues and individual cases. Several jurisdictions hold regular (weekly or monthly) detention review meetings where the detention status of each juvenile is reviewed.

- Communication and working relationships are more difficult when:
  - o There is a lack of regular meetings between the key decision makers;
  - o Substitute judges do not have the same access to communication, or do not know the most current practices used for some types of detention cases (particularly in larger jurisdictions);
  - o Juveniles are involved in offenses and services that cross jurisdictional lines; or
  - o Juveniles are in need of DSS services and placement; or
  - o Dealing with difficult cases, such as substance abusing juveniles.

#### Residential and Non-Residential Alternatives to Detention

Most of the participating jurisdictions have access to electronic monitoring and outreach detention. Additionally, some have access to house arrest, less secure detention, family-oriented group homes (FOG homes) and shelter care. The respondents focused their comments on the limited availability of alternatives, and problems with placing juveniles in the alternative programs.

- Alternatives to secure detention may not be available because:
  - o Funding constraints preclude their availability;
  - o Some alternatives (e.g., day reporting centers) may be available for adults only; and
  - o Programs for females, sex offenders, and mentally ill juveniles are rare.
- ➤ Judges, probation/parole officers, and others key players take advantage of a range of alternative and stepdown programs when made available. However, even when alternatives are available to the jurisdiction:
  - o Bed space may not be immediately available for a given juvenile, who may be detained until other needs (e.g., mental health) can be met;
  - o Other agencies may be taking up bed space (e.g., Social Services, Mental Health, Education); and
  - o Juveniles might not reside in the jurisdiction in which the offense was committed.

#### Post-dispositional Detention as a Graduated Sanction

Although this study focuses on the use of *pre*-dispositional detention, respondents also spoke about post-dispositional detention. There was unanimous agreement among those interviewed that post-dispositional detention is a useful and beneficial sanction within the continuum of graduated sanctions. Post-dispositional detention is frequently not a sentencing option because of pre-dispositional crowding of facilities. Those interviewed expressed a desire to increase the use and availability of post-dispositional detention. It makes use of local community programs as part of treatment and integrates the family into treatment programs. It is especially useful with nonviolent offenders.

### Examination of Key Decision Makers' Beliefs about Detention

Key decision-makers agreed that the *Code of Virginia* provides the primary guidelines for detention decisions. The *Code's* guidance requires balancing the community's need for protection while assuring the safety of juveniles. When comparing interview responses given by major groups of key decision-makers – judges, Assistant Commonwealth Attorneys, CSU directors, detention home superintendents, probation officers, and public defenders – it was apparent they disagreed on whether community protection or juvenile well-being and safety should be most influential in the detention process. They also differed on whether any factors, in addition to those contained in the *Code*, should be considered in detention decisions.

Figure 16 arrays the six groupings of decision-makers along two major dimensions:

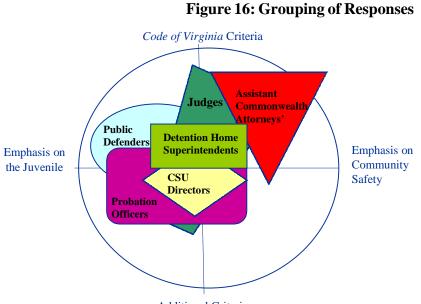
- The vertical axis represents the importance interviewees placed on *Code* criteria alone versus the inclusion of additional factors.
- The horizontal axis represents opinions about the emphasis on the well-being and safety of the juvenile versus the emphasis on community protection alone.
- > Types of decision-makers, taken as a group, overlap substantially, but also reflect dissimilar positioning with respect to the juvenile safety/community protection axis and the *Code/Code* plus other criteria axis.

- Judges opinions seemed to be the most diverse. While they placed most emphasis on Code criteria, individual judges differed on issues about the use of additional criteria and advocated the need to consider the needs of the juvenile in conjunction with maintaining the safety of the community. As shown in Figure 16, judges were broadly represented across all four quadrants.
- Assistant Commonwealth Attorneys placed primary emphasis on using only the Code criteria for detention decisions and were most concerned with community safety.
- Additional Criteria Public defenders considered themselves advocates responsible for obtaining the least restrictive outcome for their juvenile clients. They placed strong emphasis on Code criteria, but stated that decisions should give equal weight to the individual needs of juvenile offenders and their families.
- Detention home superintendents uniformly agreed that detention placement decisions should be based on Code criteria and not on any additional criteria. They did not feel that detention should be used as an "unofficial" punishment. Also, they were strongly opposed to the use of detention as a "holding place" while juveniles waited for placements in less secure facilities. Superintendents saw detention as appropriate as a protection for the community, but were also strong advocates for appropriate treatment and rehabilitation of juveniles placed in secure detention.
- Probation and intake officers placed equal emphasis on the need to maintain public safety while providing needed services and protection for the juvenile offender. They overlapped with public defenders and judges on the application of additional criteria when making detention decisions. Probation officers indicated support for the use of detention for providing needed services, such as psychological testing or substance abuse treatment, if no alternative facilities were immediately available for such services. They did not see detention as an appropriate means for "teaching a lesson," nor as a holding facility for juveniles without immediate alternatives.
- CSU Directors reported that they often served as a communication resource between the court, probation officers, and the detention home superintendents. More than other key decision groups, CSU directors expressed near-unanimity on detention placement decisions and the appropriate use of detention beds.

### Suggestions from the Field

Individuals interviewed also provided many innovative suggestions for improving detention practices. They are presented here as the point of view of the respondents, but are not specifically recommended by DJJ.

- The needs of juveniles should be met in the least restrictive setting possible without sacrificing public safety.
- Innovative practices should be evaluated and, if appropriate, replicated.
- Detention homes should educate their jurisdictions about current practices and procedures, as well as concerns, through newsletters and other materials.
- DJJ should educate the key decision-makers on the use of graduated sanctions and the appropriate use of detention.
- > DJJ should work with localities and private providers to develop additional non-secure residential options.



Spring 2001

- > DJJ should add detention personnel to its global email distribution list.
- Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act coordinators should facilitate discussions between CSUs and detention homes.
- > DJJ should create a new detention risk assessment instrument to include:
  - o An objective section based on Code criteria;
  - o A subjective or override section;
  - o Intake supervisor approval of overrides;
  - o Notice of overrides to regional and central office;
  - o Availability of the instrument on the shared drive of the computer network and the JTS;
  - o Field staff input into the instrument development; and
  - o Outcome evaluation by the Research and Evaluation Section.
- ➤ Probation officers should ensure that all community-based programming and sanctions have been attempted, or that public safety is threatened, before issuing a detention order for a technical violation.
- ➤ All jurisdictions should create and operate detention review committees.
  - o Regional managers and CSU directors should discuss with judges the use of detention review committees and CSU release authority.
  - Representatives from the detention home, CSU, and clerk's office should meet weekly to docket cases for release consideration.
- Eighteen-year-olds should be held in local jails, and juveniles should be transferred to jail without a petition on their 18th birthdays. Superintendents and/or CSU personnel should have to petition for exceptions.
- > DJJ should consider incentives to develop post-dispositional detention in those communities where bed space is available.
- > DJJ should work with local communities to develop after-hours assessment centers in each district (perhaps within detention homes). This would reduce "on-call" duty for probation staff, and support local law enforcement in making release decisions.
- New probation/parole officers should be trained on the goals and proper use of detention.
- > DJJ should continue to collect data on the detention population, identify detentions in conflict with existing policies, and report such discrepancies to the CSU Director for further investigation, with copies to the regional and central offices for appropriate follow-up.
- ➤ CSUs should complete a report on every juvenile that is placed in the detention home "by default" (e.g., caretaker refuses to take the juvenile home, caretaker has not been providing appropriate supervision, DSS is the guardian and has failed to secure an appropriate placement).

### Main Findings

Initial detention placement decisions are heavily influenced by Code of Virginia criteria, especially safety of the community, with other factors considered as appropriate.

Other considerations include a juvenile's history of mental disorder or substance abuse, and factors related to the current offense. Jurisdictional factors such as detention overcrowding and availability of alternative placements are also considered.

### Decisions to release from detention are substantially the same as placement.

Also considered are the juvenile's behavior in detention, and the need to restore competence. A scarcity of step-down programs could lengthen LOS. Cases in the custody of the Department of Social Services may remain in detention longer.

## **Promising Practices**



## **Promising Practices - Virginia**

Our research at CSU sites during the study revealed a number of local policies and practices warranting recognition in this report.

#### I. Reducing Pre-Dispositional Length of Stay (LOS)

- ➤ Judges have granted the intake supervisor the authority to make step-down placement decisions. (Hampton)
- Weekly detention review process for pre-dispositional cases. (Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk)
  - Two probation supervisors, the intake supervisor, the detention superintendent, the less secure detention superintendent, a social worker, and representatives from outreach detention and electronic monitoring staff.
  - o Detention home superintendent compiles a list of juveniles eligible for step-down placement.
  - o Team reviews each case, discussing the juvenile's behavior while in detention.
  - o If a juvenile is granted a step-down, the prosecutor, judge, and probation officer are informed.
  - o If there is a need for a step-up process, another hearing is required.
- ➤ Judges have granted the intake supervisor the authority to release juveniles from secure detention without having to return to court. (Stafford County)
- ➤ A formalized process for requesting continuances. (Hanover County)
  - o Good cause must be shown to request a continuance.
  - o Unless circumstances are exceptional, requesting a continuance on trial day may result in a motion for a show cause or *capias* being issued against the requester.

#### II. Detaining for Technical Violations

- ➤ Probation/parole supervisors review use of community-based options before detaining for violation of probation/parole. (Henrico)
  - o Probation/parole officers complete a form listing prior efforts.
  - o Probation/parole officers meet with their supervisors to request violation of probation/parole charges and detention orders.
  - o If community alternatives have not been exhausted, the supervisor denies the detention request and alternatives are implemented. (15th District CSU)

#### III. Improving Detention Practices

- > Judges meet regularly to discuss current practices with key decision-makers. (Richmond, Norfolk)
- ➤ A DSS worker is located within the CSU, fostering better communication and facilitating group home placements. (Richmond)
- ➤ Judges have assigned a specific liaison to improve communication between decision-making groups (e.g., the CSU director and the Drug Court). (Richmond)
- The chief judge has regular breakfast meetings so that the judges may discuss issues. (Richmond)
- A newsletter provides information about current practices and issues. (Merrimac)
- Meetings are held between key decision-makers. (Loudoun, Norfolk)
- ➤ On-call intake staff complete a detention decision form for after-hours intakes, to ensure appropriate placement. (Chesterfield)
- ➤ Probation staff visit their detained juveniles more frequently than required by standards (weekly, versus every 10 days). (Norfolk)

## **Promising Practices - Nationally**

Recent reports by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and by the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) have highlighted some promising practices on the national level. A detailed review of these practices is beyond the scope of this report, but we have listed a few specific practices that seem applicable to Virginia's detention system. These are only a selection of the many good practices that are discussed in these publications. Readers should see the original publications for more. See the list of references at the end of this report for more information.

#### I. Annie E. Casey Foundation - Juvenile Jailhouse Rocked

#### Collaborative Planning and Decision-making

Various agencies within the juvenile justice system (judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, police, probation, and others) work together to address problems. This applies to detention homes and to other aspects of the juvenile justice system.

#### Objective admissions practices

Using objective admission practices can ensure that juveniles are not admitted to secure detention facilities unnecessarily or inappropriately. Any effort to use objective admission practices for secure detention should include developing or improving objective detention eligibility criteria. A well-designed screening instrument should be used to determine the appropriate detention service to accomplish the purposes of detention and to ensure that resources are appropriately used based on individual youth risk.

#### Case processing innovations

Changes in case processing procedures can reduce delays in each step of the juvenile justice process - arrest, referral to intake, adjudication and disposition. Some innovations in this area include automatic notification systems to reduce failure to appears and pretrial placement planning to reduce court time for initial appearances. Sacramento County's Detention Early Resolution program reduced processing time from 25 days to five days by advancing the pretrial date.

#### Alternative programs

The use of effective detention alternatives ensures that juveniles who do not require secure care are supervised in less costly programs while the most serious offenders area appropriately supervised in a secure setting. Without access to alternative programs, juveniles will continue to be detained unnecessarily. Basic alternative programs include day reporting centers, home confinement, and shelters providing services to youth who need 24- hour supervision.

#### II. OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin - Anticipating Space Needs

Decision-makers understand the consequences of underestimating future demands and the overcrowded and less safe facilities that occur as a result. However, overestimating future demands can lead to problems such as mismanaged tax dollars and even misuse of the extra space, such as detaining juveniles who would not otherwise be confined. In either case, the cost of miscalculating the need for additional space in secure juvenile facilities can be considerable.

#### III. OJJDP - Desktop Guide to Good Juvenile Detention Practice

#### Policy and Procedures Manual

A policies and procedures manual assures the smooth flow of the juvenile detention program and the safety of the detained juveniles and the community. It should contain the department's or the facility's mission statement, goals and objectives, code of ethics, and the policies and procedures or guidelines that juvenile detention staff need to perform both their routine and non-routine tasks.

#### Classification System

A security classification system that identifies and separates violent offenders from nonviolent offenders helps protect the detained juveniles and the staff from injury, and helps protect the detention home from liability. This system only affects the juvenile's housing and sleeping arrangements.

## Appendices



### Appendix A

#### Code of Virginia: Selections Pertaining to Juvenile Detention

Below is an annotated list of the sections of the *Code of Virginia* (*COV*) found useful in conducting this study. The interested reader can access the complete statutory language of the *COV* on-line at http://leg1.state.va.us/000/src.htm.

#### § 16.1-246 When and how child may be taken into immediate custody

This statute explains when and how a child may be taken into immediate custody and outlines the acceptable offense classifications and scenarios.

#### § 16.1-247 Duties of person taking child into custody

This code section dictates the duties of an official taking a child into custody. It provides specific release options, mandates for parties to notify, and time-frames for judicial review. It differentiates between instances when the court is open and the court is closed. This statute also indicates how long a juvenile that is not being transferred to a facility or institution may be held in custody and where that juvenile may be held.

#### § 16.1-248.1 Criteria for detention or shelter care

This statute specifies the criteria for placement in secure detention and shelter care, outlining the acceptable offense classifications and scenarios.

#### § 16.1-260 Intake; petition; investigation

This code section explains the process for filing petitions for matters falling under the bailiwick of the J&DR court. It also establishes the modes of communication deemed acceptable to process a petition, defines when an intake officer may use his or her discretion to proceed informally without filing a petition, dictates when a petition must be filed, and includes language about appealing an intake officer's decision.

#### § 16.1-278.5 Children in need of supervision (CHINSup)

This statute spells out what reports and evaluations must be completed on CHINSup cases. It also specifies which public agencies are to be involved in the evaluation process and what dispositional options are available.

#### § 16.1-284.1 Placement in secure local facility (post-dispositional)

This code section addresses the criteria (age, offense history, commitment history, response to past treatment efforts) for post-dispositional placement in a secure local facility. It also spells out the time-frames for mandatory judicial reviews, establishes the maximum length of a juvenile's stay, and references the Department of Juvenile Justice's role in assisting localities.

#### § 16.1-292 Violation of court order by any person

This statute provides the dispositional alternatives available to the court in contempt of court cases. It specifically spells out dispositions that can be utilized for juveniles found to have willfully and materially violated a court order pursuant to §16.1-278.5: Child in need of supervision (CHINSup).

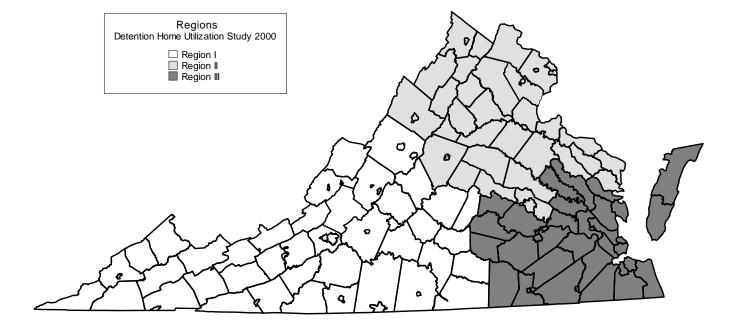
## **Appendix B**

## **Localities in Each CSU**

CSU	Locality	CSU	Locality	CSU	Locality
001	Chesapeake	015	Caroline County	025	Alleghany County
002	Virginia Beach		Essex County	1	Augusta County
02A	Accomack County		Fredericksburg	1	Bath County
	Northampton County	Ī	Hanover County	1	Botetourt County
003	Portsmouth	Ī	King George County	1	Buena Vista
004	Norfolk	1	Lancaster County		Clifton Forge
005	Franklin		Northumberland County		Covington
0.00	Isle Of Wight County	Ī	Richmond County	1	Craig County
	Southampton County	Ī	Spotsylvania County	1	Highland County
	Suffolk	Ī	Stafford County	1	Lexington
006	Brunswick County	Ī	Westmoreland County	1	Rockbridge County
000	Emporia Emporia	016	Albemarle County	1	Staunton
	Greensville County	010	Charlottesville		Waynesboro
	Hopewell	Ī	Culpeper County	026	Clarke County
	Prince George County	Ī	Fluvanna County	7020	Frederick County
	Surry County	Ī	Goochland County	1	Harrisonburg
	Sussex County	Ī	Greene County	1	Page County
007	Newport News	1	Louisa County	1	Rockingham County
008	Hampton	1	Madison County		Shenandoah County
009	Charles City County		Orange County		Warren County
007	Gloucester County	017	Arlington County	1	Winchester
	James City County	17F	Falls Church	027	Carroll County
	King and Queen County	018	Alexandria	027	Floyd County
	King William County	019	Fairfax	1	Galax
	Mathews County	019	Fairfax County	1	Grayson County
	Middlesex County	20L	Loudoun County	1	Montgomery County
	New Kent County	20W	Fauquier County	1	Pulaski County
	Williamsburg	2000	Rappahannock County	1	Radford
	York County	021	Henry County	1	Wythe County
	York County for Poquoson	021	Martinsville	028	Bristol
010	Appomattox County	1	Patrick County	1020	Smyth County
010	Buckingham County	022	Danville Danville	1	Washington County
	Charlotte County	022	Franklin County	029	Bland County
:	Cumberland County	1	Pittsylvania County	02)	Buchanan County
	Halifax County	023	Roanoke County	1	Dickenson County
	Lunenburg County	023	Salem	1	Giles County
	Mecklenburg County	23A	Roanoke City	1	Russell County
	Prince Edward County	024	Amherst County	1	Tazewell County
:	South Boston	024	Bedford	030	Lee County
011	Amelia County		Bedford County		Norton
011	Dinwiddie County	1	Campbell County	1	Scott County
	Nottoway County	Ī	Lynchburg	1	Wise County
	Petersburg	1	Nelson County	031	Manassas
	Powhatan County	<b>†</b>	preson County	1031	Manassas Park
012	Chesterfield County	1			Prince William County
012	Colonial Heights	1			Woodbridge
013	Richmond	đ			i i oodoridge
013	Henrico County	1			
014	premied County		,		

## **Appendix C**

The Three Regions of the Department of Juvenile Justice



## Appendix D

## Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Term
ACA	Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney
ADP	Average Daily Population
CHINs	Child-in-need-of-services
CHINsup	Child-in-need-of-supervision
COPS	Community Population System
COV	Code of Virginia
CSU	Court Service Unit
DCJS	Department of Criminal Justice Services
DH	Detention home
DJJ	Department of Juvenile Justice
DO	Detention order
DSS	Department of Social Services
EM	Electronic monitoring
FIPS	Federal Information Processing System
FOG Home	Family Oriented Group Homes
IO	Intake officer
JAIBG	Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant
JCEC	Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalitions
JDR	Juvenile and Domestic Relations
JTS	Juvenile Tracking System
LOS	Length-of-Stay
PO	Probation/Parole officer
Post-D	Post-dispositional detention
Pre-D	Pre-dispositional detention

## Appendix E Data Collection Form: Page 1

#### DJJ DETENTION SCREENING DATA COLLECTION **Person Completing Form**

Yo	outh's Name		son completing For	JTS#	Locality (FIPS) Time Spent on this Intake					
In	take Officer		_ Date/Time of Int	ake/_	Time Spent	on this Intake				
1.		R DETENTION RE	FERRAL (Check O	,						
	New Offense Violation of Probation/	/Darolo		Outreach or House Arrest Court Order Alleged		te Compact (Warrant/Teletype)				
	Other (Specify		U Violation of a	Court Order Alleged	□ Out-of-S	State Runaway (no charges)				
2.	NUMBER CUI	RRENT, PENDING		RGES (Enter numbers	in table; no cell sho	uld be blank – use 0)				
		Felony	Misdemeanor Class 1	Misdemeanor Class 2-4 & Other	Tech. Violation	Diversion/Unofficial				
	Prior Current					N/A				
	Pending				A-14-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4	N/A N/A				
ı						IVA				
3.	NUMBER OF DAY	S BETWEEN THE	DETENTION DEC	ISION AND THE CU	RRENT OFFENSE	E DATE				
4.	POTENTIAL TO F	LEE Has youth had o	ne or more detention or	ders/warrants for escape,	runaway or failure to a	appear? Yes 🗆 No 🗀				
5.	☐ Has prior record a ☐ Has prior record a ☐ Has prior record a ☐ Has prior record, ☐ Has prior record, ☐ Has prior record,	and previously received and was previously on pand is on unofficial supand is a drug court parties on official probation is on official probation	Has prior record, but is a services, but was not o probation/parole, but is ervision or receiving pricipant or parole supervision A or parole supervision B	UT is NOT currently abi	e supervision on e.g., EM, Outreach Det pation/parole supervision	on OR adjustment unknown				
6.	LEGAL GUARDIA  □ Biological or adopt □ Non-parent relativ Was this info. known w	tive parent(s)	□ Non-□ Dept	Relative adult of Social Services	□ Otl	nancipated her (Specify) ecision? Yes				
7.	LIVING SITUATIO  ☐ With biological or  ☐ With non-parent re  ☐ In Direct Care  Was this info. known w	adoptive parent(s) lative or friend	☐ Foste ☐ Group ☐ Halfway House	r Home p Home/Shelter Care	□ Oth	ring Independently ner (Specify) ecision? Yes \( \Boxed{D} \) No \( \Boxed{D} \)				
8.		or a household member		nt offense? Yes ☐ No ☐ No ☐ Did the info. inf		ecision? Yes 🛛 No 🔲				
9.	☐ Alleged Offender☐ Legal Guardian (inc	cluding DSS Guardians luence the detention de	Arrects) Arrects  Cocision? Yes N	DE (Check ALL that apsting Officer gned PO to $\square$ econferencing used? Yes	□ Vio	s/no questions) ctim(s) her (Specify)				
	EDUCATIONAL/VC  ☐ Subject is enrolled ☐ Subject is enrolled ☐ Educational/vocation	OCATIONAL/EMPL and attending but not attending onal status could not be	OYMENT STATUS  S  determined	Subject is not enrolled BU Subject is not enrolled AN	IT has completed HS ID has not completed I	Diploma or GED HS Diploma or GED				
B.	<ul><li>☐ Subject is employed</li><li>☐ Subject is employed</li><li>☐ Subject is employed</li><li>☐ Employment status</li></ul>	d AND is attending wo d BUT is not attending d; attendance unknown could not be determine	rk	Subject is NOT employed Subject is NOT employed Subject is NOT employed	BUT is not old enough BUT is not able to wo AND is physically/me	rk (disabled)				

## **Data Collection Form: Page 2**

DJ	J DETENTION SCREENING DATA COLLECTION PAGE 2 OF 2 INTAKE DATE:	JTS#	#
D.	MENTAL HEALTH STATUS (Check ALL that apply; also answer yes/no questions)  Youth is not making statements of self-harm or exhibiting bizarre behavior/ no referral for a pre-screen is necessary  Youth has been hospitalized in the past as a result of suicide attempts or other mental health issues  Youth is making threats of self-harm, or is exhibiting other bizarre behavior, but no referral for a pre-screening is necessary  Youth is making threats of self-harm, or is exhibiting other bizarre behavior and a pre-screening was done but hospitalizati  Was this info. known when the detention decision was made? Yes No Did the info. influence the detention decision?  CAREGIVER/GUARDIAN (Check ALL that apply; also answer yes/no questions)  Guardian capable of meeting youth's needs Guardian not capable of meeting youth's needs (e.g., level of state of the second of the	on was Yes  ipervisi arrange Yes	ruled out  No   on)  ements for chi
F.	Was this info. known when the detention decision was made? Yes ☐ No ☐ Did the info. influence the detention decision? HISTORY OF VIOLENCE (Check ONLY One answer in this section; also answer yes/no questions) ☐ Subject does not have a documented history of violence/assaultive offenses ☐ Subject has a documented history of violent/assaultive offenses	Yes 🗀	l No □
G.	Was this info. known when the detention decision was made? Yes ☐ No ☐ Did the info. influence the detention decision? WEAPONS (Check ALL that apply; also answer yes/no questions) ☐ Possession/use of firearm during instant offense ☐ Past Possession or past use of firearm ☐ Possession/use of other weapon during offense ☐ Past Possession or past use of other weapon	Yes 🗆	l No □
Н.	If a weapon was used during the commission of the current offense, has the weapon been recovered? Yes \( \text{No} \) \( \text{No} \) \( \text{Vas this info. known when the detention decision was made? Yes \( \text{No} \) \( \text{No} \) \( \text{Did the info. influence the detention decision?} \)  SUBSTANCE ABUSE (Check <b>ALL</b> that apply; also answer yes/no questions)  Youth under the influence of alcohol or another drug at the time of the offense  Youth was not under the influence of alcohol or any other drug, but drug usage is thought to be a problem  Youth was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the Intake  It is not known if alcohol or any other drug was used at the time of the offense, but drug usage is thought to be a problem  Youth has received inpatient substance abuse treatment  Youth is a known or suspected drug-dealer	Yes 🗀	l No □
I.	Was this info. known when the detention decision was made? Yes \( \subseteq \) No \( \subseteq \) Did the info. influence the detention decision? ARRESTING OFFICER AND OTHER AGENCIES (Answer ALL questions)		□ No □
K.	Arresting Officer or other non-DJJ colleague recommended detention/indicated youth was difficult Arresting Officer or other non-DJJ colleague recommended release/indicated youth was cooperative Arresting Officer or other non-DJJ colleague disagreed with initial Intake decision and threatened to call Judge or supervisor YOUTH'S ATTITUDE (Check ONLY One answer in this section)  Youth displayed bad attitude during Intake AGGRAVATING/MITIGATING FACTORS (Check ALL that apply)  Offense more serious than indicated by charge (aggravating factors) Specify:  Youth's role in the offense - in leadership role Youth committed an offense that "automatically" results in detention (common practice in jurisdiction) OTHER (Check ALL that apply)  Youth needs to learn a lesson/recognize seriousness of continued delinquent behavior/wake-up call Youth indicated that he/she "has seen the light" and will cooperate fully Youth may be in danger if returned home  Youth presents a clear and substantial threat of serious harm to (pursuant to 16.1-248.1.A.1.b)	Yes Yes	□ No □ □ No □ □ No □
	Released to non-custodial parent, relative or family friend Released to Outreach Det., Electronic Mon. or H. Arrest Released with non-residential conditions (other than EM, Outre		
Is t	Funding Constraints - detention not utilized due to more cost-effective program available Funding Constraints - detention utilized because funding was not available for less restrictive programs (e.g., EM)	6	FAXED

## Appendix F

#### **Interview Questions**

#### Questions for Directors, Judges, & Detention Home Superintendents

Date Locality	Agency (circle one): Court, CSU, Detention Home
Person Interviewed	Role
Interview Conducted by	
1. What type of information is (or	should be) considered when making detention placement decisi

- 1. What type of information is (or should be) considered when making detention placement decisions? How is this information different from the information used to determine release from detention?
- 2. Are there any issues in your jurisdiction that are unique to your locality that influence decisions about detention placements?
- 3. Is post-dispositional detention available in your area? If not, how do you think that it might be useful as one of the range of graduated sanctions for juvenile offenders?
- 4. What types of communication exist between the CSUs, the local detention homes, and court staff? (Email, voicemail, regular meetings, face to face meetings, correspondence)
- 5. What factors contribute to LOS for confined juveniles (in your opinion)?
- 6. Based on your experience, what are the problems associated with a long LOS for the facility, the staff, and the juveniles?
- 7. What are the issues that develop in your working relationships with other parties when detention decisions are made? What changes might make detention placement decisions easier?
- 8. Based on your experience, do you think that time limits on LOS would affect placement availability within your facility? Do you think that eliminating the practice of giving juvenile offenders "credit for time served" in predispositional detention would reduce LOS in detention facilities?
- 9. If detention is not the most appropriate sanction for a juvenile, what do you believe might be more effective? Do you have access to sanction/program?
- 10. How often do you think juveniles are placed in detention due to safety concerns for the juvenile (as opposed to pubic safety concerns)? Do you think this is appropriate when the juvenile would not otherwise be sent to the facility (detention not necessary for public safety)? What steps are needed to reduce the number of juveniles being placed in the detention facility when alternative treatment/placement would be more beneficial for the juvenile? Do budgetary or funding constraints have an impact on your decision to refer a juvenile to a detention facility rather than another type of facility?
- 11. Specific to your role, what factors do you believe work well with the current detention process? What aspect of the current detention process is most frustrating?
- 12. Are there any issues that we have not addressed during this interview that you would like to mention?

## ${\bf Appendix}~{\bf G}\\ {\bf Offenses~Headings~Included~in~Each~Offense~Type, From~Table~8, page~14}$

Type	Offense Heading	Type	Offense Heading
Alcohol	Alcohol	Person	Assault
Arson	Arson, Explosives, Bombs	Person	Kidnapping
CHINS	Status Offenses	Person	Murder
CHINSup	Status Offenses	Person	Robbery
Drugs	Narcotics	Person	Sexual Assault
Family	Custody	Person	Person Activities
Family	Family Offense	Property	Burglary
JDR	Judicial Reviews	Property	Extortion
JDR	Juvenile & Domestic Court - Other	Property	Fraud
Other	Abusive and Insulting Language	Property	Larceny
Other	Accomplice	Property	Trespass
Other	Animals	Property	Vandalism, Damage Property
Other	Arrests (for use by State Police)	Technical	Contempt of Court
Other	Conspiracy	Technical	Failure to Appear
Other	Dangerous Conduct	Technical	Parole and Probation Violation
Other	Disorderly Conduct	Technical	Parole, Probation, Supervision Violation
Other	Escapes	Traffic	Traffic - Driving While Intoxicated
Other	Federal Offense	Traffic	Traffic - Hit and Run, Accident Reports
Other	Obscenity	Traffic	Traffic - Lighting Equipment
Other	Obstruction of Justice	Traffic	Traffic - Operator's License
Other	Ordinance, City, or County	Traffic	Traffic - Reckless Driving
Other	Peace, Conservator of the	Traffic	Traffic-Buses and Trucks
Other	Perjury	Traffic	Traffic-Hit and Run, Accident Reports
Other	Protective Orders	Traffic	Traffic-Moving Violations, General
Other	Riot and Unlawful Assembly	Traffic	Traffic-Operator's License
Other	School Attendance	Traffic	Traffic-Pedestrians
Other	Sex Offenses	Traffic	Traffic-Reckless Driving
Other	Solicitation	Traffic	Traffic-Registration, Plates, etc.
Other	Telephone	Weapons	Weapons

## **Appendix H**Study Responses from the JCECs

Dantials	nating ICEC	FAIRE		LOUDO		MERRIMAC		
Particip	pating JCEC	Detention D not detained	detained	Detention I not detained	Decision detained	Detention Decision not detained detained		
Race/Ethnicity	Asian	0		0				
	Black	0	0	5		-	2	
	Hispanic	0	0	4	0	· ·		
	White	0	0	20	25			
	Other	- 0	0	0	1	0		
	Unknown	0	0	0	0			
Sex	Female Male			23	22			
Age	12 or younger	0		0				
ngc .	13 to 14			6				
	15 to 17		0	23	25	-		
	18 or older	0	0	0	1			
Reason for detention	New offense	30	34	26	17	50		
	Technical violation	7	13	0	12	3		
	Other	1	0	3	1			
Educational status	Enrolled/Attending/Graduate/GED	17		26	18			
	Not enrolled or not attending	9	19	1	9			
	No response	12	-	2	3			
Employment status	Employed or too young or disabled	11	14	4	17			
	Not employed or not attending work	7	16	1	1	V		
Montal hoolth	No response	20		24	12			
Mental health	Symptomatic  Not symptomatic	25		24	28			
	No response	13		5	28			
Caregiver capability	Capable	20		22	8			
caregiver capability	Not capable	5		2	22			
	No response	13		5	0			
Gang activity	No gang involvement	37		28	30			
	Gang involvement known or suspected	1	2	1	0			
Weapon use	Present or past firearm possession	2	3	1	1	2		
•	Present or past other weapon possession	1	6	0	1	1		
	No response	35	38	28	28	53		
Substance abuse	Known drug connection	12	9	6	2	. 8		
	Suspected drug connection	11	20	7	13	13		
	No drug connection or no response	15		16	15			
Officer recommended detention	No	34		25	18			
	Yes	3	20	1	11			
Officer recommended release	No	22	42	21	29			
0.07	Yes	3	20	5	0			
Officer disagreed with decision, threat	No	38		29	30			
Youth displayed positive attitude	No	3		3	16			
A consusting /Mitigating factors	Yes	35 14		26 20	14 27			
Aggravating/Mitigating factors	Aggravating circumstances	8	6	20	0			
	Mitigating circumstances No response	16		7	3	-		
Documented history of violence	No	36						
bocumented history of violence	Yes	2	11	6				
Threat to abscond	No	34		29		_		
	Yes	4	14	0				
Current legal status	No prior record	18		15	3	29		
	Not on official supervision but has history	9		9	10			
	On official supervision	11	26	5	17	6		
	No response	0	1	0	0	0		
Legal guardian	Biological or adoptive parent	38	43	29	28	51		
	Other	0		0	2	. 5		
Living situation	Biological or adoptive parent	38	39	28	28	51		
	Other	0		1	2	5		
Was a household member the victim?	No	37		28	27	53		
	Yes	1	5	1	3	3		
Attendee(s) at Intake	Complainant	29		28	30			
(categories are not exclusive)	Guardian present	4	8	2	2			
Others Contains	Offender present	5	10	3	6			
Other factors	Juvenile needs to learn a lesson Juvenile sees error in his/her actions	5 2		2 0	2			
	Juvenile sees error in his/her actions Juvenile in danger if returned home	0		0	13			
	Threat to self	6	_	0	13			
	No response	25		27	3			
nitial detention decision	Released with no conditions	32		29	0			
determion decision	Nonresidential program	52		0	0			
	Residential program	1	0	0	0			
			47	0	30			
	Secure detention	0			.,,,,,			

L	TOTAL		RICHMO	IANNOCK	RAPPAH	NORFOLK		NEWS	NEWPORT
	Detention I		Detention D	n Decision			Detention 1		Detention I
detained	not detained	detained 0	not detained	detained 0	not detained	detained 0	not detained 0	detained 0	ot detained
	154	66	56	23	15	22	21		39
	8	0		0	0	0	2		0
	107	2	1	29	24		5		19
	0	1 0		0	0	0 0	0		0
	64	18	16	12	11	12	10		13
22	206	51	43	40	29	22	18	56	45
2	27	3		8	2	0	1		13
21	66 169	19 46	16 34	15 29	11 25	30	11 16		13 28
	8	1		0	23		0		4
	278	45	56	33	36	19	25	55	55
ç	21	23		18	3	10	2		3
	9	1	0	1	1	5	1		0
16	174 25	13 24	6 2	38	20	13 18	24	37 11	42
8	109	32	51	5	18		0	21	13
	92	12	2	19	7	22	17		35
	40	2		9	4		9		11
	176	55	55 2	24	29		2	33	12
27	5 223	0 38	28	44	38	1 31	1 26	5 56	47
6	80	31		6	2	2	1	8	11
13	198	21	44	17	17	17	19	16	39
	45	7		18	10		5		15
	65 304	41 69	14 57	17 49	13 40	33	28	-	<u>4</u> 58
	4	09			0		0		0
	12	5	5		0		1		1
	6	3		6	1	2	1		2
	290	61	54	45	39		26		55
	93	5 40		8	3 12		2 4		2
16	181	24		30	25	16	22	43	47
19	288	38	59	35	37	18	25	40	58
14	11	30		16	2		2		0
	149	67		48	32		20		33 25
	138 292	1 67	52 61	3 52	7 40		7	4	61
	17	2	0	7	3	2	1		2
27	291	67	59	45	37	32	27	42	56
23	153	40	40	39	18		3		18
	70 85	7 22		2 11	12 10	2 2	7	6 14	28 12
22	235	40	15 41	32	22	26	20	40	47
	73	29		20	18		8	29	11
24	291	45	50	43	39	19	27		57
9	17	24		9	1	15	1		1
	134 128	9 28	13 45	11 11	18 14	6 12	11 10		30 20
	45	28 29		30	8	12	7		8
	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
	284	61	51	47	39		20		56
	24	8	8	5	1		8		2
29	281 27	61 8	51 8	47 5	38		20 8	56 13	55 3
	290	63	59	44	38		26		49
5	18	6	0	8	2	5	2	11	9
l .	269	65		52	39	32	23		38
14	57 114	2 22		7 16	4		11 12		29 32
	114	38		18	28		12		29
14	31	0			0				17
3	3	1	1	3	0	2	0	6	1
	7	24		16					0
	108	6 0	3	15	12	5	16 27	7	11 42
	278 21	0		0	39 1	0			10
	9	0			0				6
l .	0	67	0	52		34			0
	0	2	0	0		0	0	3	0

Ī	<b>Localities In Each JCEC</b>
1	Fairfax JCEC
1	Fairfax County
	Fairfax City
	Town of Herndon
)	Loudoun JCEC
3	Loudoun County
	Fauquier County
)	Merrimac JCEC
3	King & Queen County
2 3 3 3 3	King William County
2	Lancaster County
3	Mathews County
3	Middlesex County
ŀ	New Kent County
)	Northumberland County
1	Richmond County
5	Gloucester County
7	Hanover County
1	James City County
3	Caroline County
3	Charles City County
-	Westmoreland County
	York County
ļ	Poquoson
) )	Williamsburg
1	Newport News JCEC
)	Hampton
7	Newport News
,	Norfolk JCEC
	Norfolk
7	Accomack County
2	Northampton County
7	Rappahannock JCEC
	King George County
)	Spotsylvania County
5	Stafford County
	Fredericksburg
	Richmond JCEC
5	City of Richmond

## **Appendix I LOS by Offense Severity, per CSU**

Off. Severity LOS	0-3	Fel 4-21	ony 22-51	52+	Cla 0-3	ss 1 Mi 4-21	isdemear 22-51	nor 52+	Clas	ss 2-4 N 4-21	Iisdemea 22-51	nors 52+	0-3	Prob/I 4-21	Par Viol 22-51	52+
CSU	0-3	4-21	44-51	52+	0-3	4-21	22-51	52+	0-3	4-21	22-51	52+	0-3	4-21	22-51	52+
010	25	46	32	9	44	47	5	3	1	0	0	0	16	31	13	3
021	13	16	6	6	12	19	5	3	0	1	0	0	5	14	0	1
022	41	51	16	9	76	70	14	4	2	4	0	0	72	105	35	18
023	14	19	6	3	22	45	13	3	0	6	0	0	14	31	14	3
23A	38	58	41	13	44	64	19	5	0	0	0	0	5	23	12	3
024	64	53	25	15	87	108	43	16	0	1	1	0	31	58	17	6
025	56	67	18	9	65	93	9	0	1	3	0	0	23	63	19	6
027	22	24	13	14	29	34	10	3	0	0	0	0	13	21	8	2
028	9	10	9	7	31	37	5	6	0	0	0	0	19	43	17	2
029	10	26	3	1	20	17	1	1	0	0	0	0	8	17	6	1
030	12	13	7	5	20	45	12	1	0	0	0	0	25	52	33	4
Region 1	304	383	176	91	450	579	136	45	4	15	1	0	231	458	174	49
013	166	107	102	74	77	74	51	28	3	2	4	0	130	190	156	47
014	39	78	62	52	94	94	48	20	7	5	1	0	77	152	72	18
015	82	113	37	13	133	191	44	14	0	0	0	0	72	187	61	18
016	30	58	31	11	55	74	22	2	0	1	0	0	43	128	36	10
017	21	31	20	19	24	30	19	3	2	6	0	0	35	89	36	16
17F	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
018	13	25	12	7	9	22	11	0	0	0	0	0	10	54	18	8
019	79	112	60	35	140	193	62	21	10	19	15	6	45	200	108	42
20L	29	25	13	6	30	17	3	3	0	1	0	0	30	15	1	2
20W	7	8	2	0	5	9	3	2	0	0	0	0	11	5	4	1
026	27	52	17	11	49	47	7	4	2	1	0	0	28	72	20	7
031	74	112	48	23	105	112	34	5	2	4	2	0	83	135	37	12
Region 2	569	722	404	252	722	864	305	102	26	39	22	6	564	1,229	549	182
001	44	127	44	24	49	154	42	7	0	0	0	0	10	58	35	14
002	62	105	55	35	112	152	74	14	2	1	0	1	85	168	86	23
02A	11	21	16	2	8	16	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	25	6	1
003	26	59	41	15	49	60	34	7	0	1	0	0	14	45	16	6
004	52	90	91	38	102	137	72	9	5	8	1	1	24	93	91	24
005	21	54	22	17	13	34	18	8	0	0	0	0	2	25	9	4
006	28	37	27	38	23	70	31	19	3	2	4	1	13	40		
007	69	126	97	52	86	134	65	25	1	3	1	0				32
008	61	58	50	17	62	47	43	4	0			0			29	9
009	22	35	16	25	28	58	20	11	0	0	0	0				6
011	62	46	25	17	39	25	16	0	0	1	0	0				5
012	99	80	56	32	144	106	61	16	6		3	0				
Region 3	557	838	540	312	715	993	477	121	17	23	9	3	319	714	446	157
TOTAL	1,437	1,949	1,120	655	1,889	2,440	918	268	47	77	32	9	1,118	2,404	1,169	388

Note: Totals include admissions in which the detaining CSU was reported by the detention home to be unknown, and therefore may not equal the sum of the three regions.

Off. Severity	C	ontemp	ot of Cou	rt	CH	IINS (S	Supervisi	ion)	(	CHINS	(Services	s)		0	ther	
LOS	0-3	4-21	22-51	52+	0-3	4-21	22-51	52+	0-3	4-21	22-51	52+	0-3	4-21	22-51	52+
CSU																
010	7	28	5	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	1
021	3	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
022	7	21	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	9	0	1
023	22	27	13	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	0	2
23A	21	47	18	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0
024	51	88	21	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	2	1
025	15	39	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	1	0
027	14	17	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	0
028	12	27	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	4	1	1
029	4	14	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	3	0	0
030	6	25	11	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0
Region 1	162	335	98	36	3	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	51	42	9	6
013	103	94	49	16	32	4	2	0	25	12	1	1	12	7	7	2
014	11	13	3	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	27	12	8	0
015	31	66	16	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	28	4	
016	24	119	24	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	3	0
017	6	25	7	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	10	8	3
17F	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
018	10	6	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	9	10	2	1
019	37	97	27	8	18	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	15	7	3	0
20L	69	41	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	1	0
20W	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
026	14	49	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	11	2	1
031	27	63	9	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0
Region 2	333	576	141	35	53	13	4	0	28	13	1	1	107	99	38	8
001	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	25	1	1
002	59	97	41	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	27	4	0
02A	0	13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	0
003	8	20	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	8	9	2	. 0
004	37	93	10	0	5	11	0	0	2	8	0	1	18	26	8	1
005	1	12	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	9	3	0	0
006	3	14	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	8	5	1
007	6	13	3	1	7	18	6	3	4	8	1	0	5	4	3	1
008	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	10	5	1
009	7	12	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	1	0
011	29	14	18	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	10	2	. 0
012	37	34	19	7	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	0	0
Region 3	187	323	100	15	18	34	6	3	7	20	1	1	108	127	31	5
TOTAL	682	1,234	339	86	74	50	11	3	35	34	2	2	270	273	79	19

Note: Totals include admissions in which the detaining CSU was reported by the detention home to be unknown, and therefore may not equal the sum of the three regions.

### **References**

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- Rust, Bill. "Juvenile Jailhouse Rocked," *Advocasey*. Fall/Winter 1999. Annie E. Casey Foundation. Baltimore, Maryland.
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- In addition to these publications, information was collected from the following U.S. government websites:
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention website. www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org.
- United States Census Bureau website. www.census.gov.